# うどんの女

the Lady of UDON

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est em

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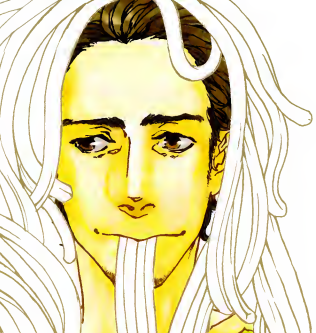

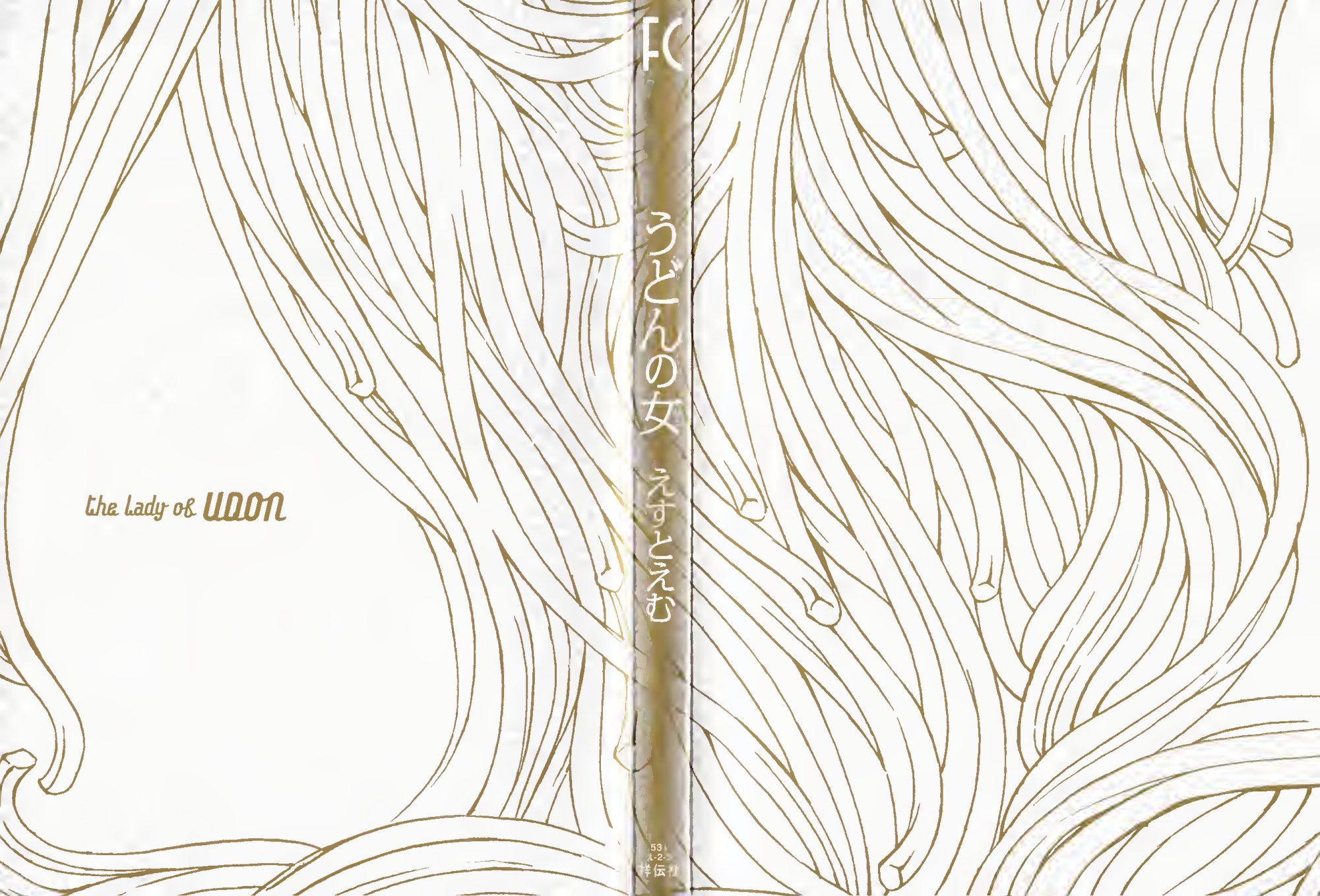


# うどんの女

えすとえむ

53
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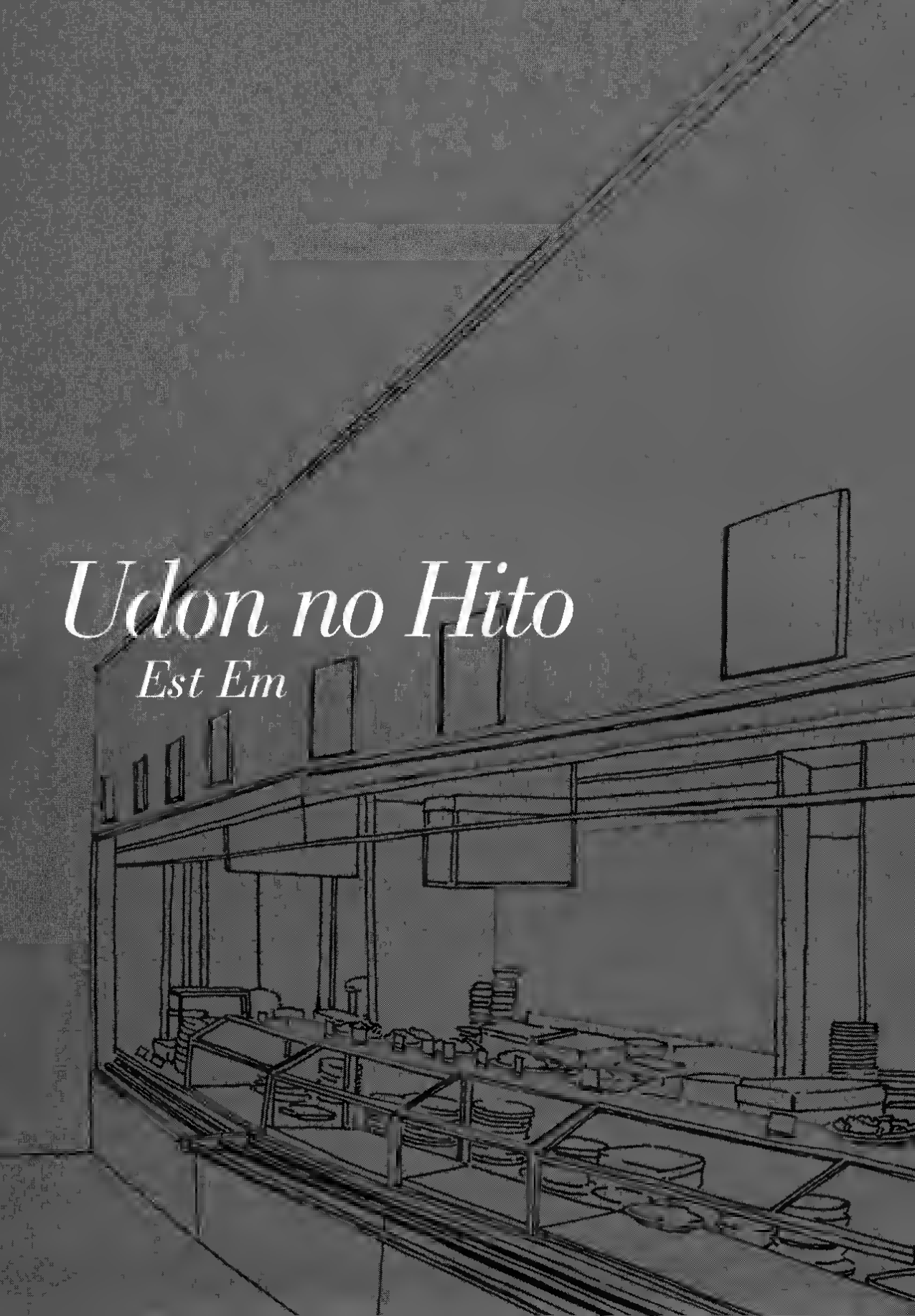
# *Udon no Hito*

*Est Em*



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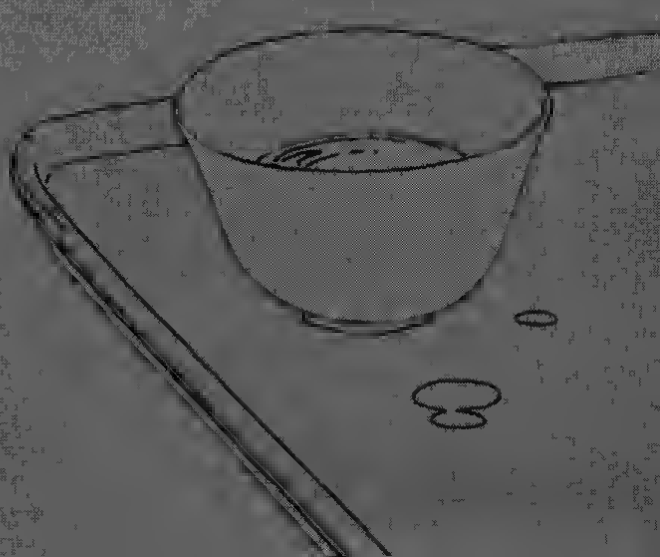
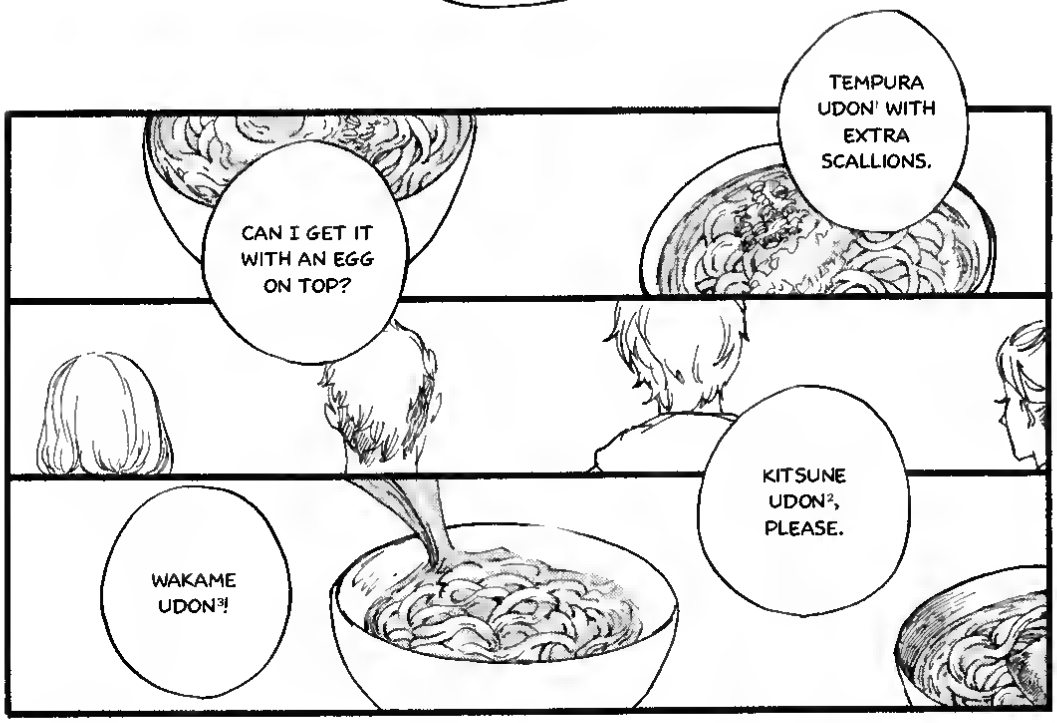


*Translator*
**Aster**
*Lettering*
**Nomad Soul**

# 94 Yen

The perfect friend for poor students.

Good flavor, good amount, only 94 yen.

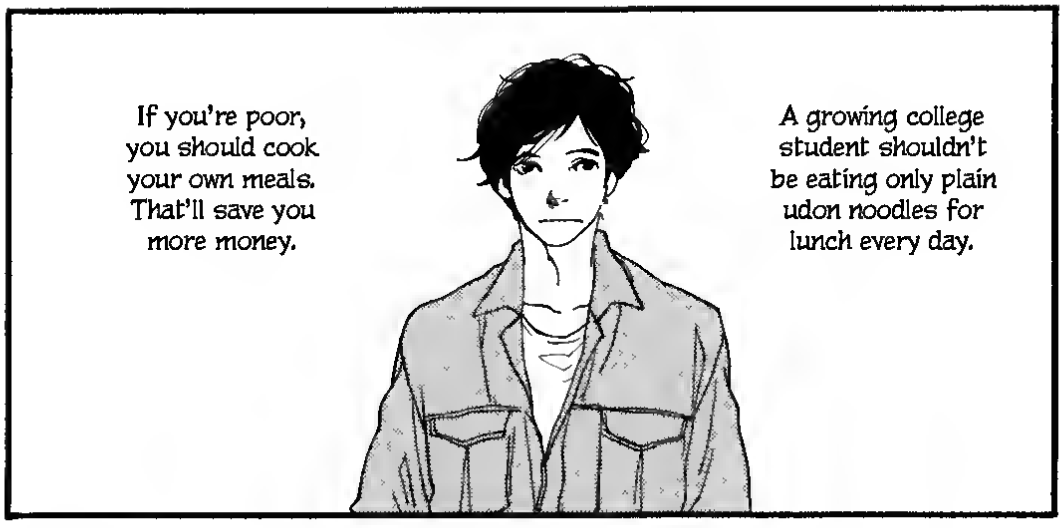


[1] UDON (THICK WHEAT NOODLES IN SOUP) TOPPED WITH SHRIMP TEMPURA.
[2] UDON TOPPED WITH SWEETENED DEEP-FRIED TOFU.
[3] UDON TOPPED WITH WAKAME SEAWEED

Lady?
SURE, A PLAIN UDON?
35 years old, single, and working again.
I might look like a lady to them!
"Kids these days," huh... I sound like an old lady.
Kids these days are too skinny.
EXCUSE ME.
His hands are skinny.

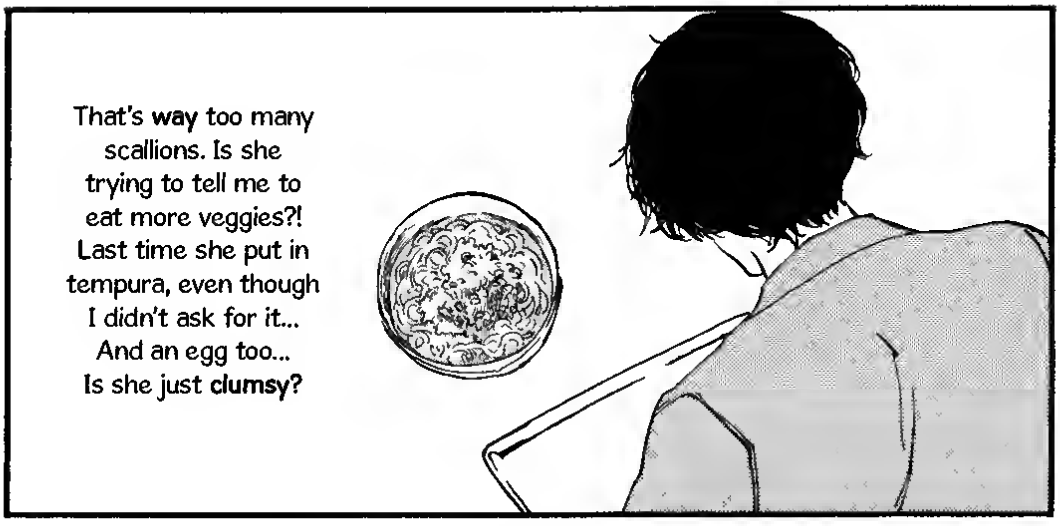
I DIDN'T GET ANY SCALLIONS...
YES?
PILED
OH, SORRY!
That's too much
...
...

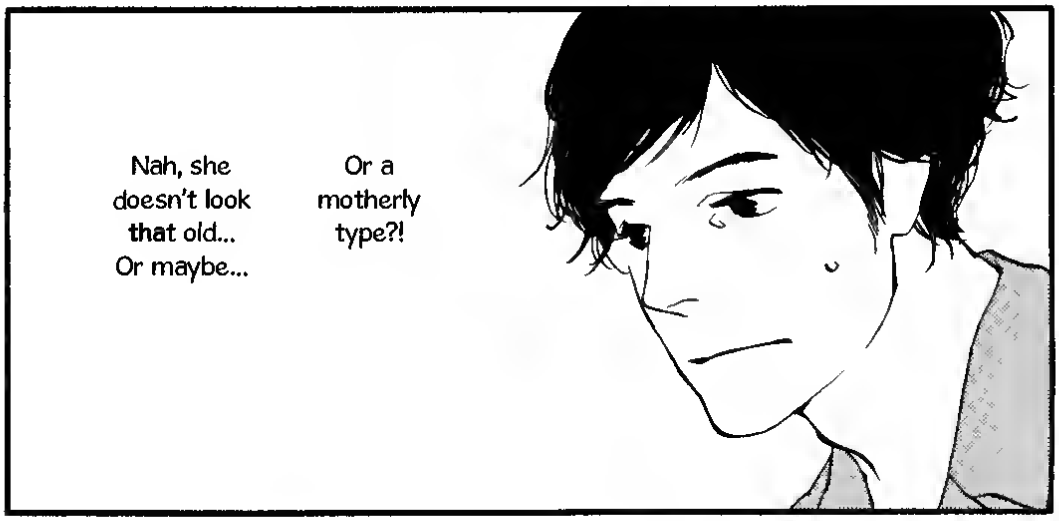
Why's he eating it every day?
UDON.
UDON.
UDON.
UDON.


If you're poor, you should cook your own meals. That'll save you more money.
A growing college student shouldn't be eating only plain udon noodles for lunch every day.

Or is this boy...

... coming to see me?!


That's **way** too many scallions. Is she trying to tell me to eat more veggies?! Last time she put in tempura, even though I didn't ask for it... And an egg too... Is she just **clumsy**?

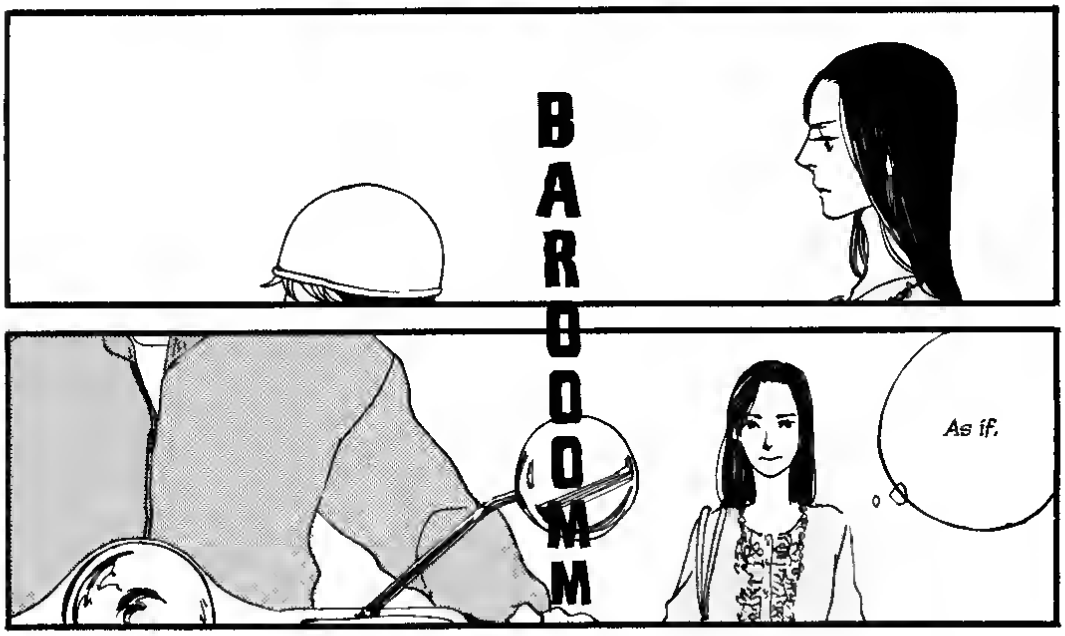

Nah, she doesn't look **that** old... Or maybe...
Or a motherly type?!

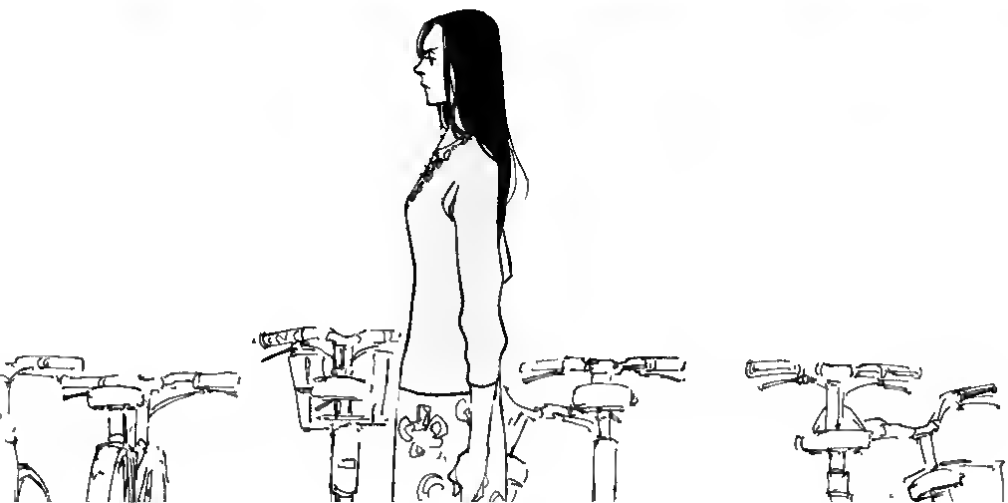
Is she into me?!

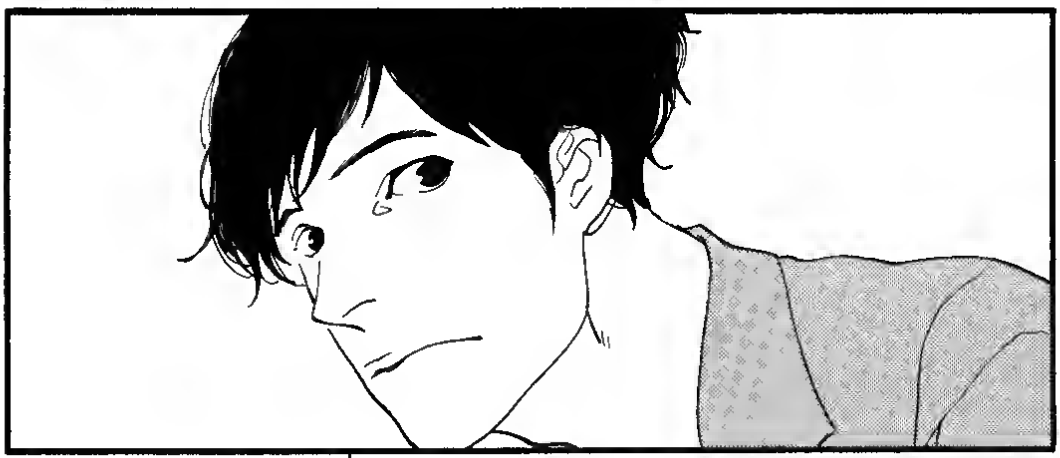
GOOD-BYE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
IT'S SO NICE TO BE YOUNG.
No way, I don't even have a boyfriend.
OH MY! MS. MURATA, GOING ON A DATE TODAY?
But being in a workplace where the average age is fifty...
...I need to wear clothes like this so I don't blend in.

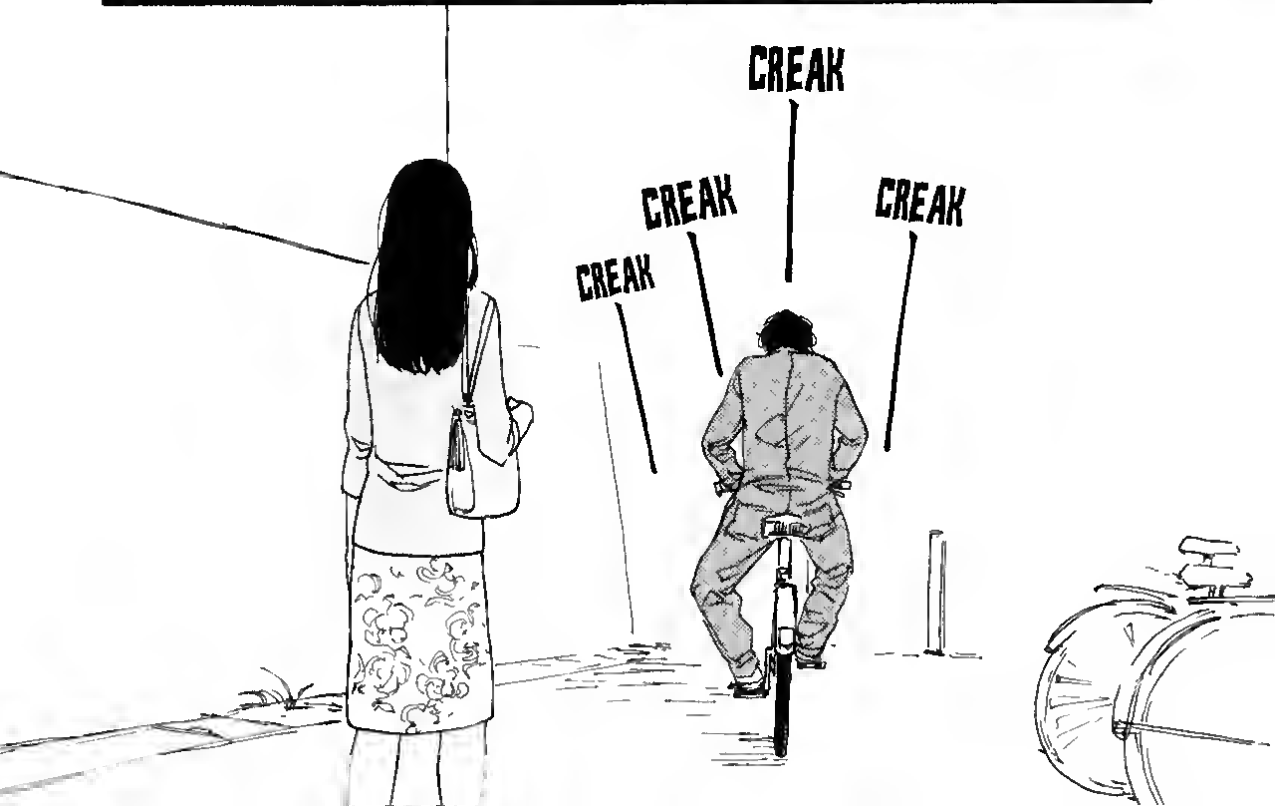
AWW...
AH!
In situations like this, it'd be nice if things were like in the comic books...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
HONK HONK

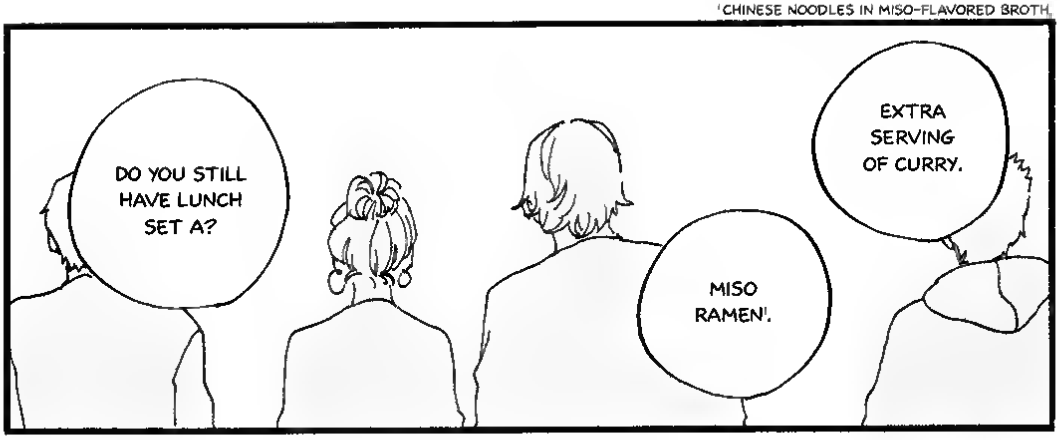
DO YOU WANT A RIDE?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?


BAROOOM
As if.

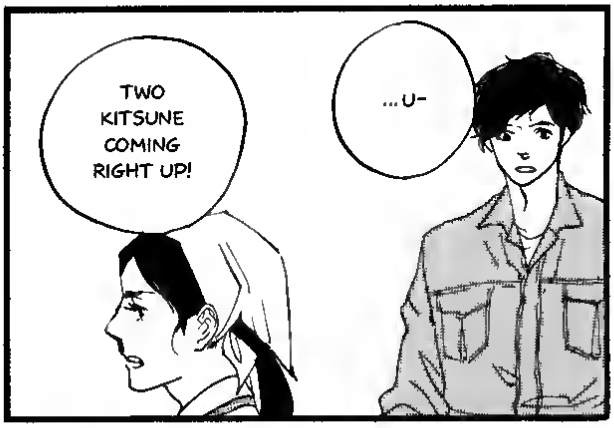

RING
RING




CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

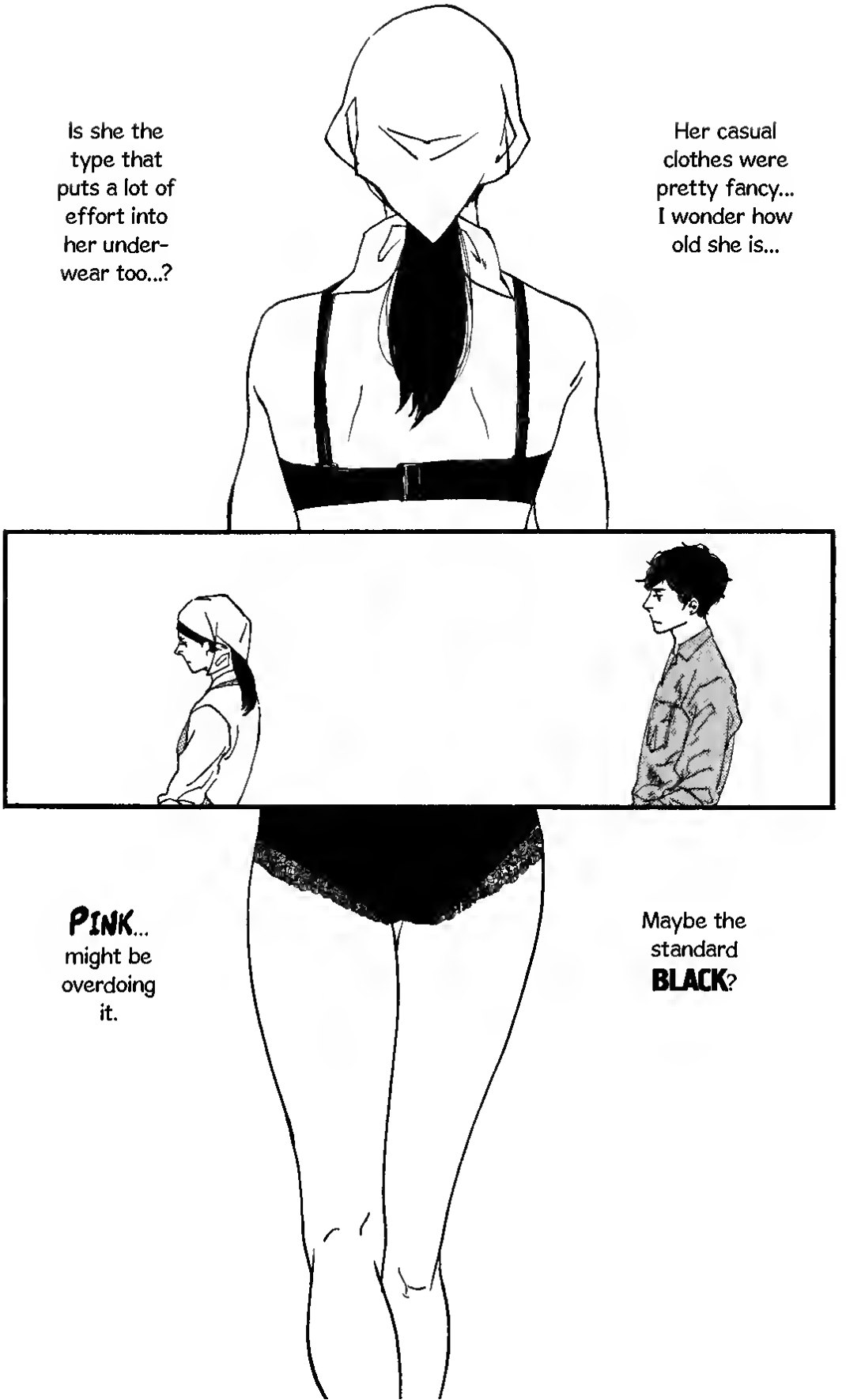

DO YOU STILL HAVE LUNCH SET A?
MISO RAMEN'.
EXTRA SERVING OF CURRY.

...Was it him yesterday?


TWO KITSUNE COMING RIGHT UP!
...U-

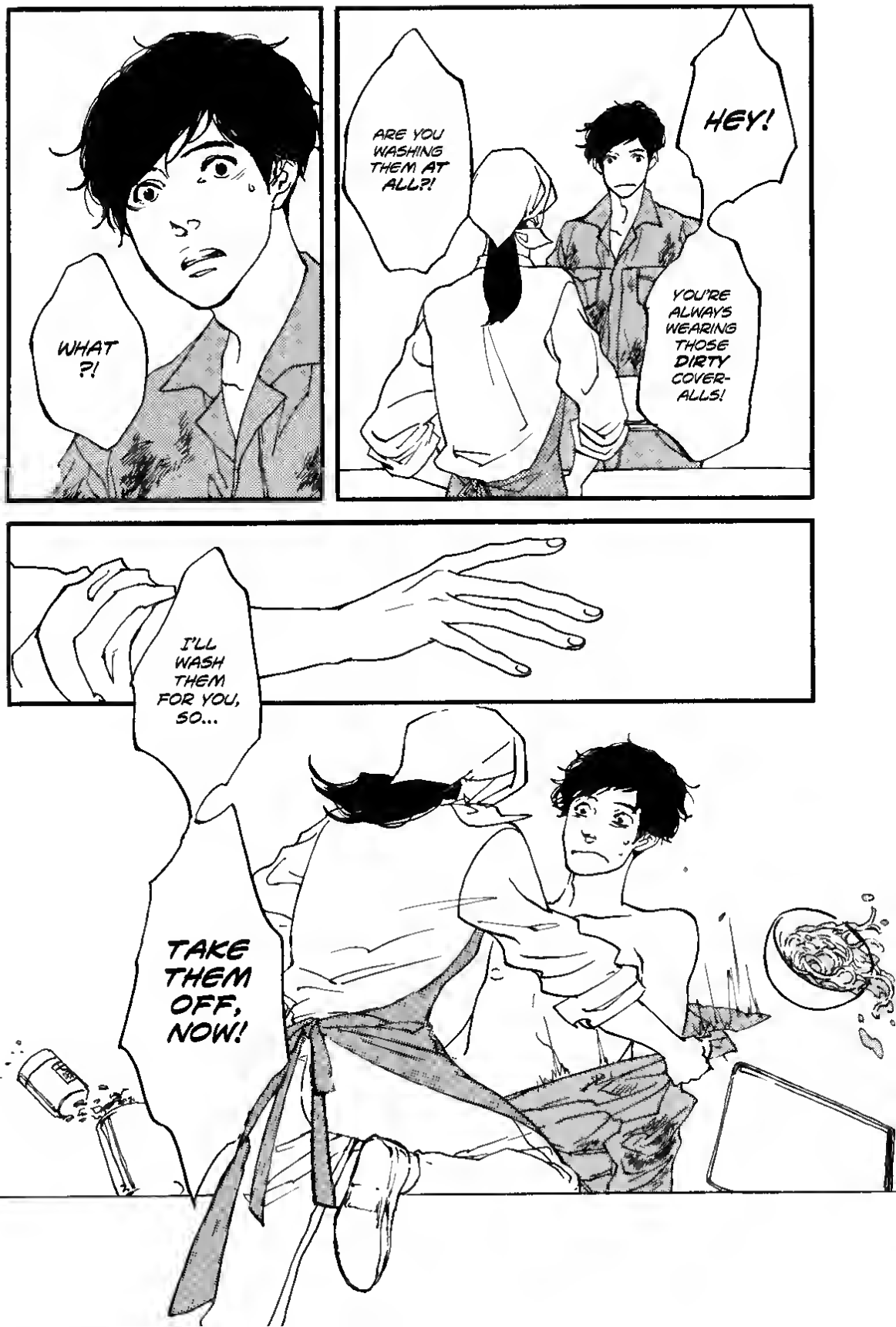
YES, PLEASE.
...UDON?

...

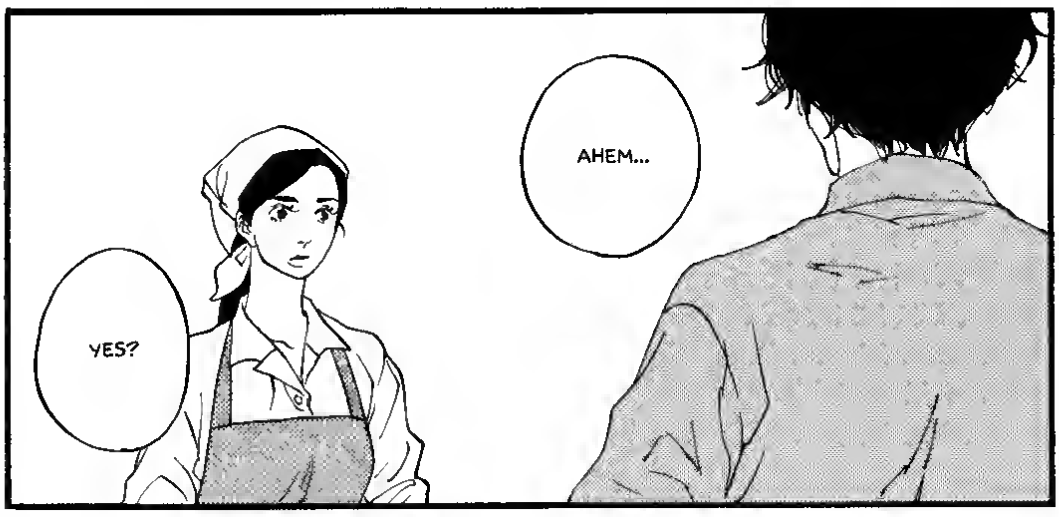

Is she the type that puts a lot of effort into her under-wear too...?
Her casual clothes were pretty fancy... I wonder how old she is...
PINK... might be overdoing it.
Maybe the standard BLACK?

But please, no **red**.
Possibly *purple*.
**Blue** isn't bad either.
...is a GOD!
All my respect goes out to Him...
This is unrelated, but whoever invented the NAKED APRON trope...
YOUR UDON.

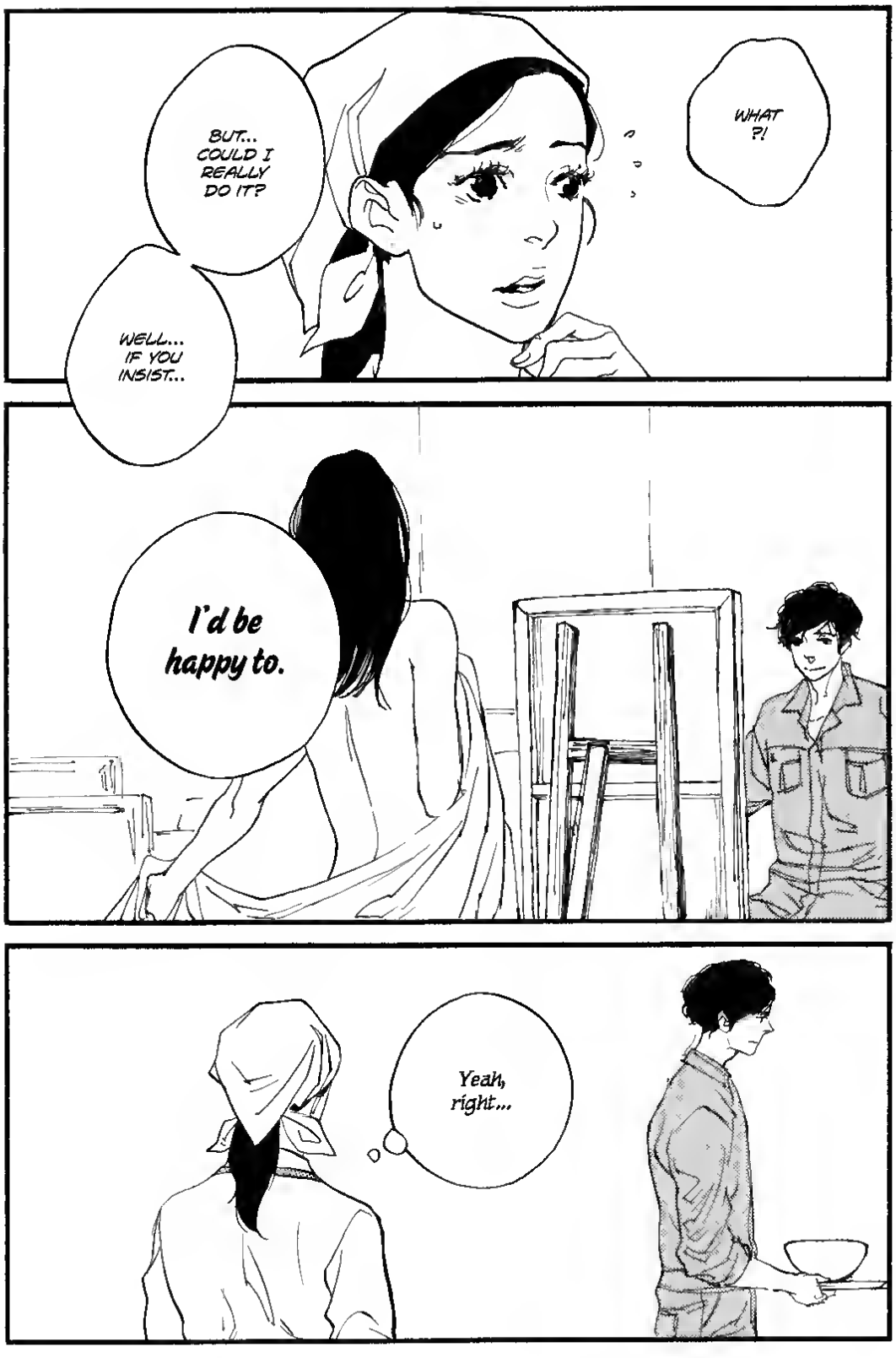
Oil painting... He must be working hard.
His coveralls have gotten dirtier since April...
...too dirty?
But aren't they...
ITCH
ITCH
ITCH
ITCH
ITCH
ITCH


WHAT?!
HEY!
ARE YOU WASHING THEM AT ALL?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS WEARING THOSE DIRTY COVER-ALLS!
I'LL WASH THEM FOR YOU, SO...
TAKE THEM OFF, NOW!

Maybe he'll go with the usual painter's line.
No way!
Shoot! I feel a grin coming up.


AHEM...
YES?

WOULD YOU MIND...
...MODELING FOR MY PAINTINGS?


WHAT?!
BUT... COULD I REALLY DO IT?
WELL... IF YOU INSIST...
I'd be happy to.
Yeah, right...

UDON TOPPED WITH THE CRUNCHY OUTSIDE LAYER OF TEMPURA.

EXCUSE ME, ONE UDON!
12
9
3
6
He didn't come today... Maybe he has a day off.
SURE.
OH, A TEMPURA UDON INSTEAD.
YES.

UDON SOBA
RAMEN
No udon ...
...but a lunch set A?!

OKAY.
IF YOU'RE FREE, TAKE HANA OUT FOR A WALK.
I'm going to the bone-setter
HEY!
Why does it feel like I got dumped?
He just wanted to eat something else besides udon.
...Nope.
What's with those skinny jeans?
Flashy... Nah, that kid's is too tight.
Besides... Youngsters these days dress too flashy.

AH!
AH, I'M SORRY...
NO PROBLEM.
HEY, WAIT!
I LOVE DOGS.
I have one back home too.

...OH.
OH.
THE UDON—

# 0.5th Bowl

It's been a while since I've watched a movie in theaters.
The one I wanted to go to was sold out. Still, it was a bad choice.
There's no use watching a college student fall in love with a 40-something woman.
This is the sad reality: a 35-year-old divorcée slurping udon in a noodle restaurant by the station.

DROOP
The steam's making my nose runny...
Oh no.
OH.

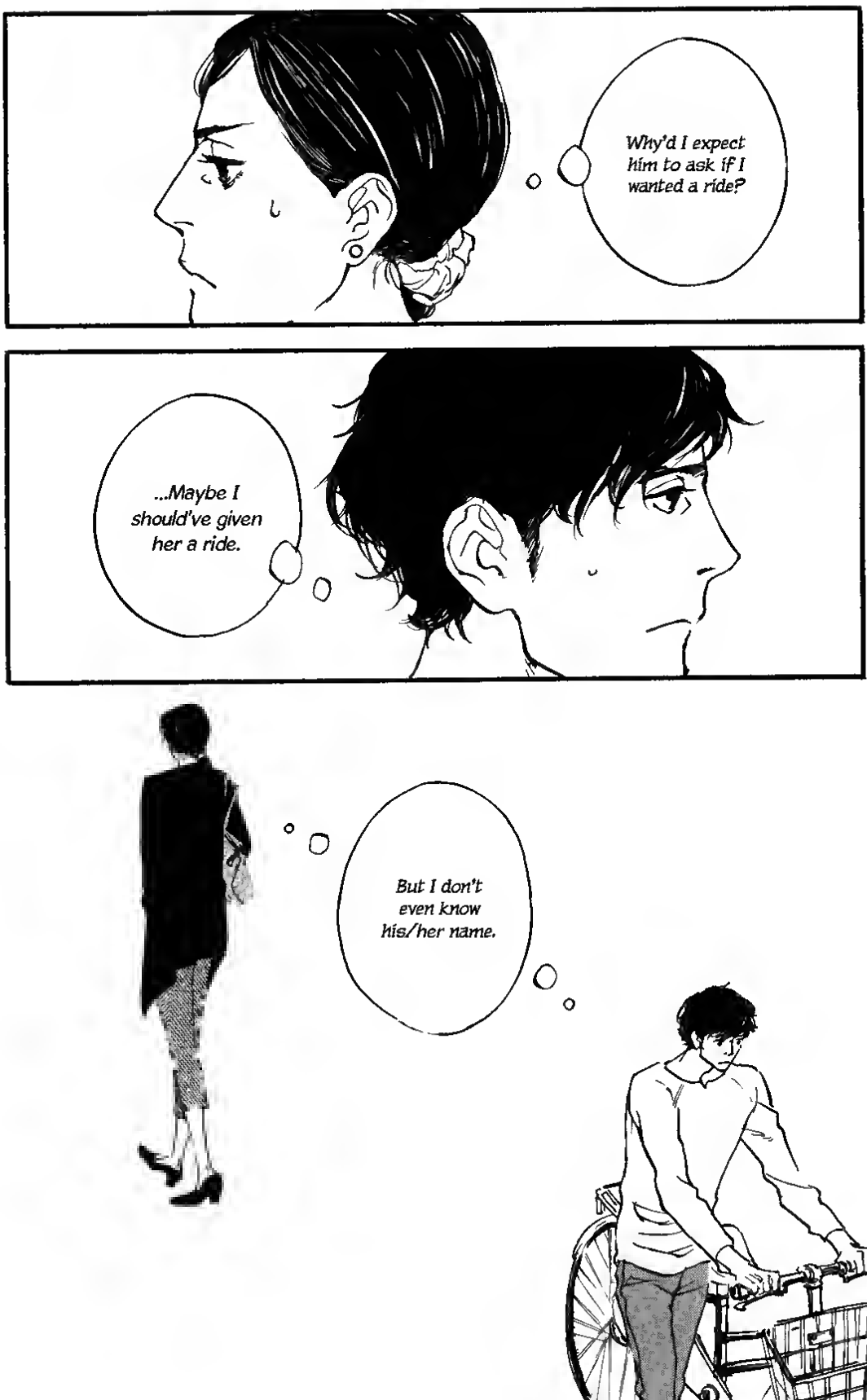
BE MY GUEST.
HELLO. CAN I TAKE THIS SEAT HERE?
...
...UM.

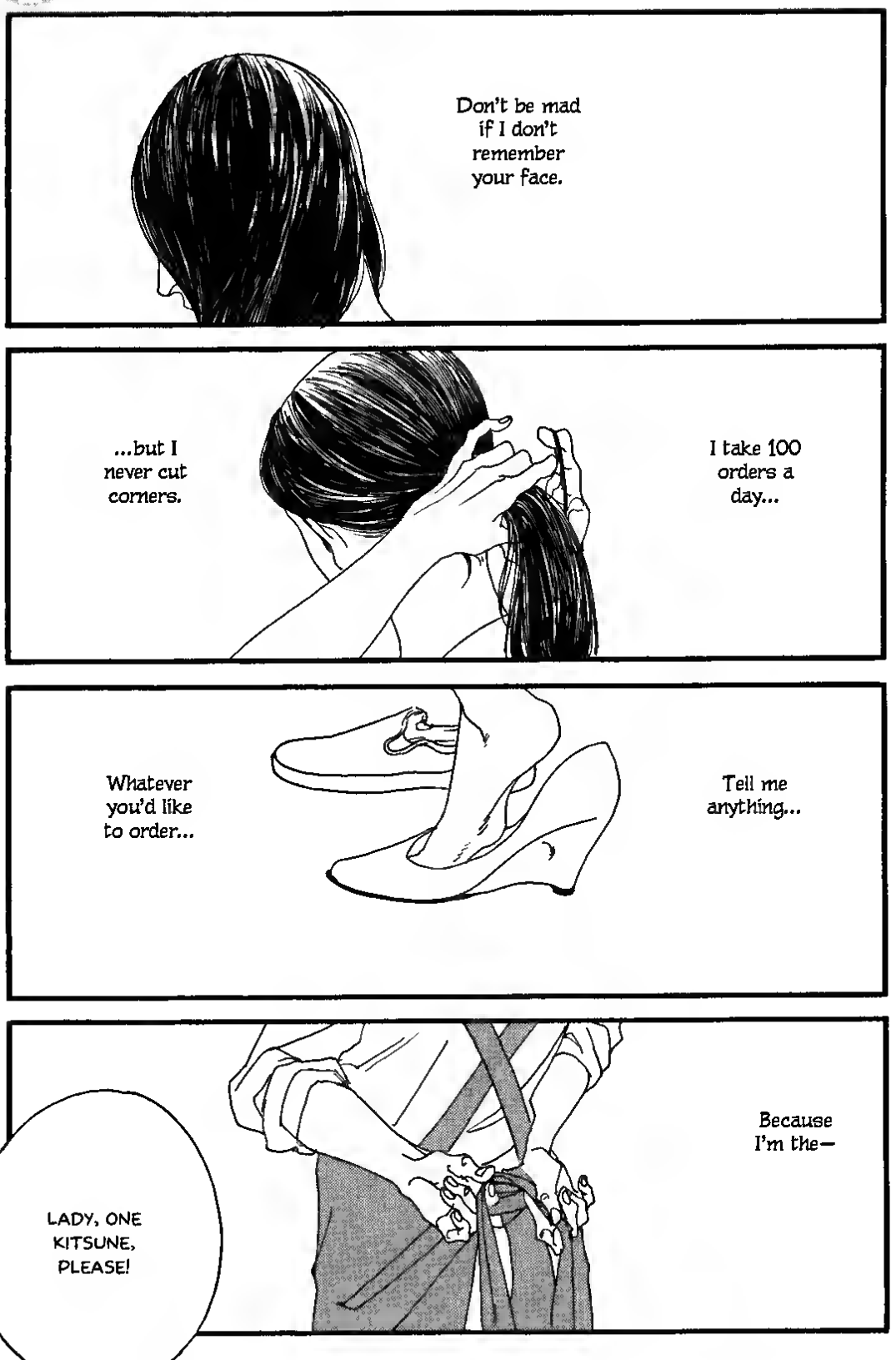
GO AHEAD.
I JUST WANTED TO COMMENT ON IT GETTING COLDER.
OH, THEN...
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT, YOU FIRST.
OH, SAME GOES FOR ME.
OH, SORRY.
DON'T BE.
SORRY?
YOU REALLY LIKE IT, DON'T YOU?
RIGHT... UDON...
UDON.

He isn't phrasing things correctly.
I'D RATHER HAVE UDON THAN SOBA!
WELL... I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
Did my heart skip a beat when he said "like"?
HOW ABOUT YOU?
YOU LIKE IT TOO, RIGHT?
You always order it.
YOU MAKE UDON IN THE CAFETERIA, TOO.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB...
ACTUALLY...

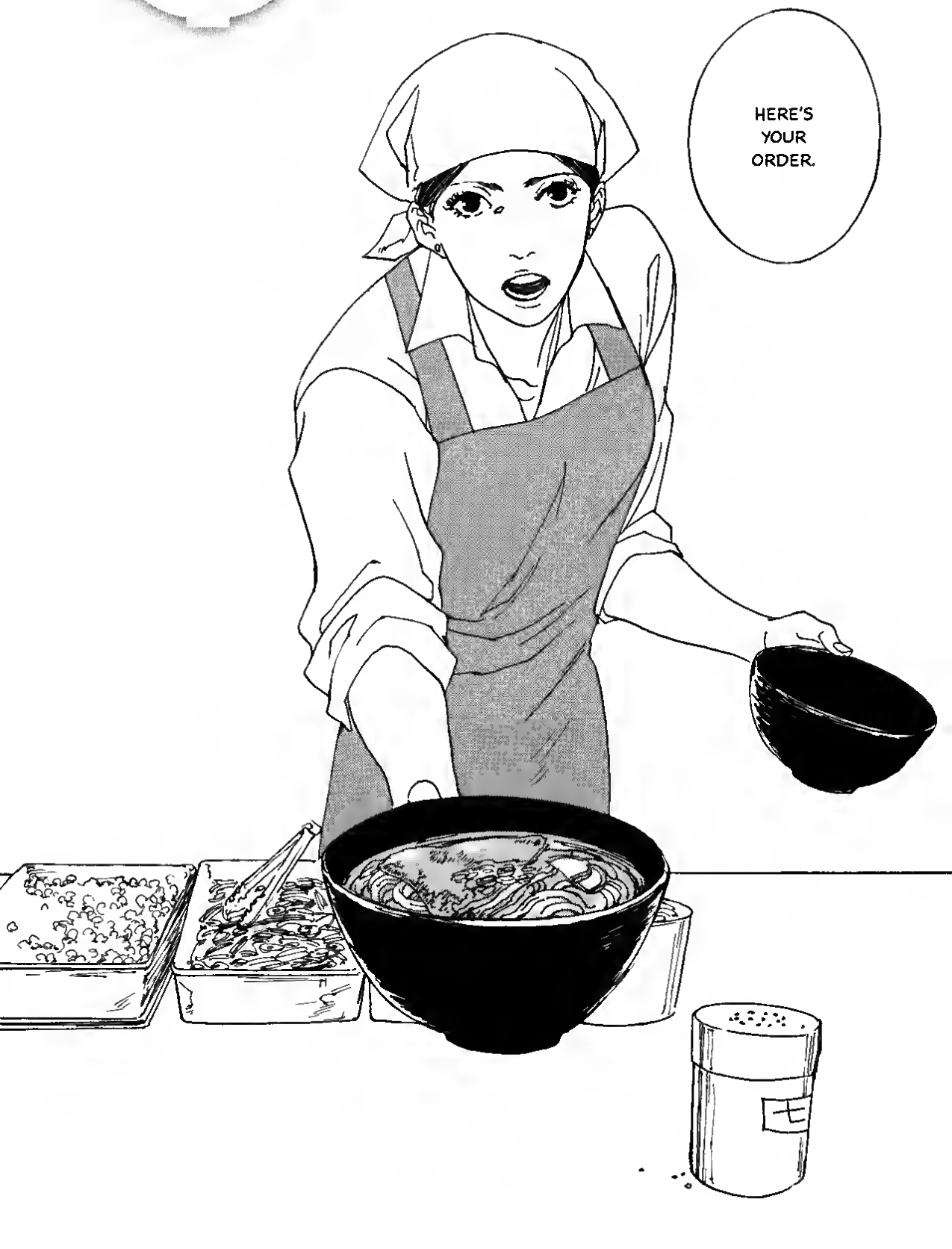
I LIKE CURRY.
I'M DONE.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU ORDER CURRY AT THE CAFE-TERIA ...?
I SEE...
...OH.
CURRY ?

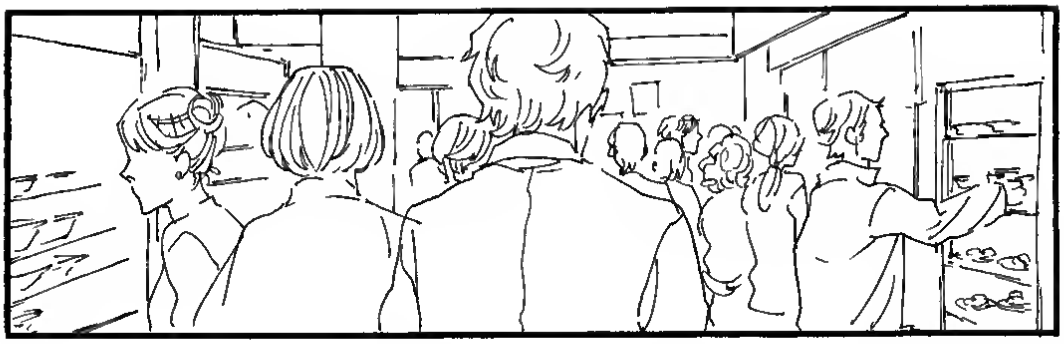
I'M TAKING THE BUS.
WELL, I HAVE MY BIKE, SO...

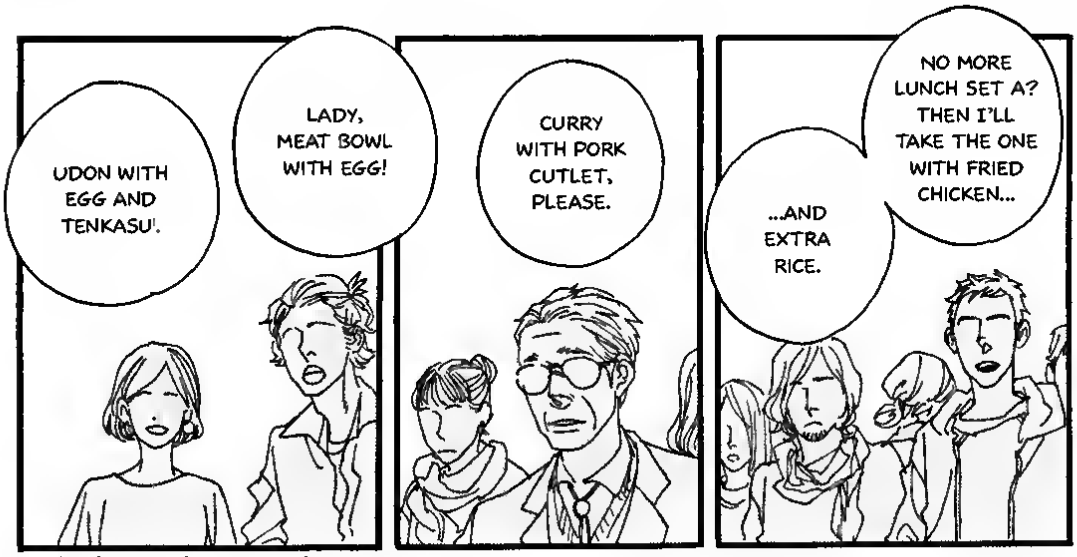

Why'd I expect him to ask if I wanted a ride?
...Maybe I should've given her a ride.
But I don't even know his/her name.


Don't be mad if I don't remember your face.
...but I never cut corners.
I take 100 orders a day...
Whatever you'd like to order...
Tell me anything...
LADY, ONE KITSUNE, PLEASE!
Because I'm the—

# 1st Bowl

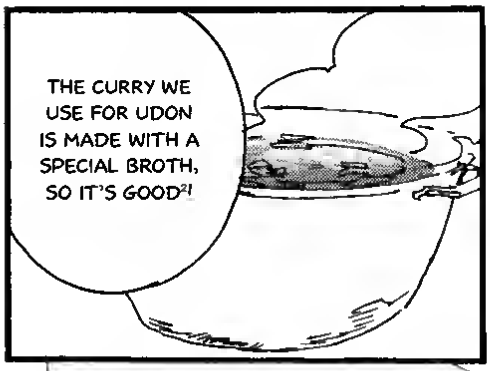


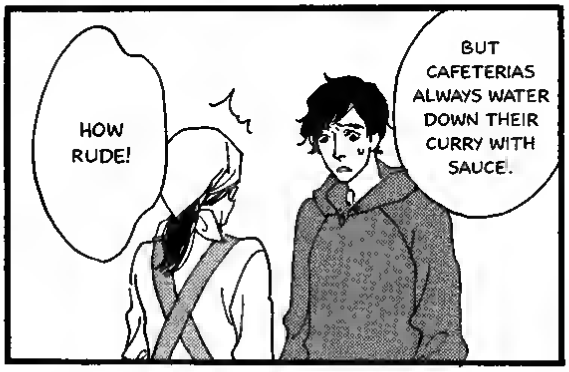



UDON WITH EGG AND TENKASU!.
LADY, MEAT BOWL WITH EGG!
CURRY WITH PORK CUTLET, PLEASE.
...AND EXTRA RICE.
NO MORE LUNCH SET A? THEN I'LL TAKE THE ONE WITH FRIED CHICKEN...

CRUNCHY BITS OF DEEP-FRIED DOUGH PRODUCED AS A BYPRODUCT OF COOKING TEMPURA.

And the rice bowls!
Good, he passed the lunch sets.
...Come.
WAKAME UDON...
After weaving through tempta-tions...
...he came back to udon.
...WITH EXTRA TENKASU.

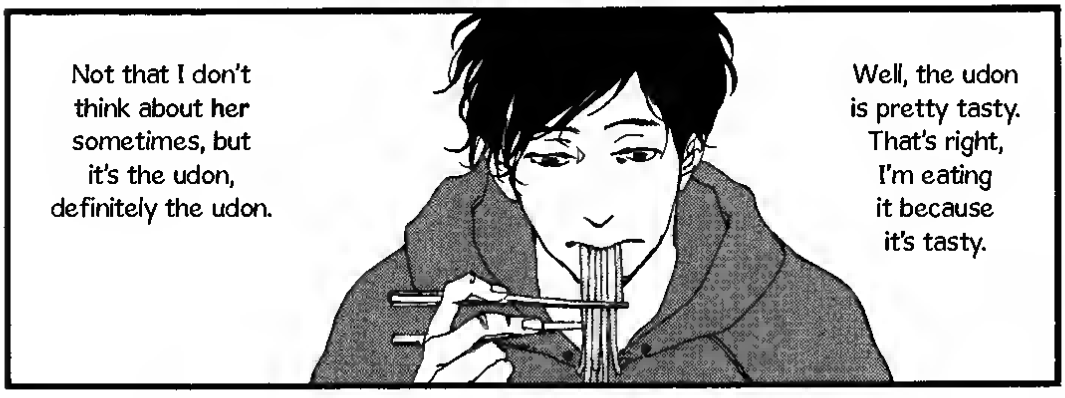


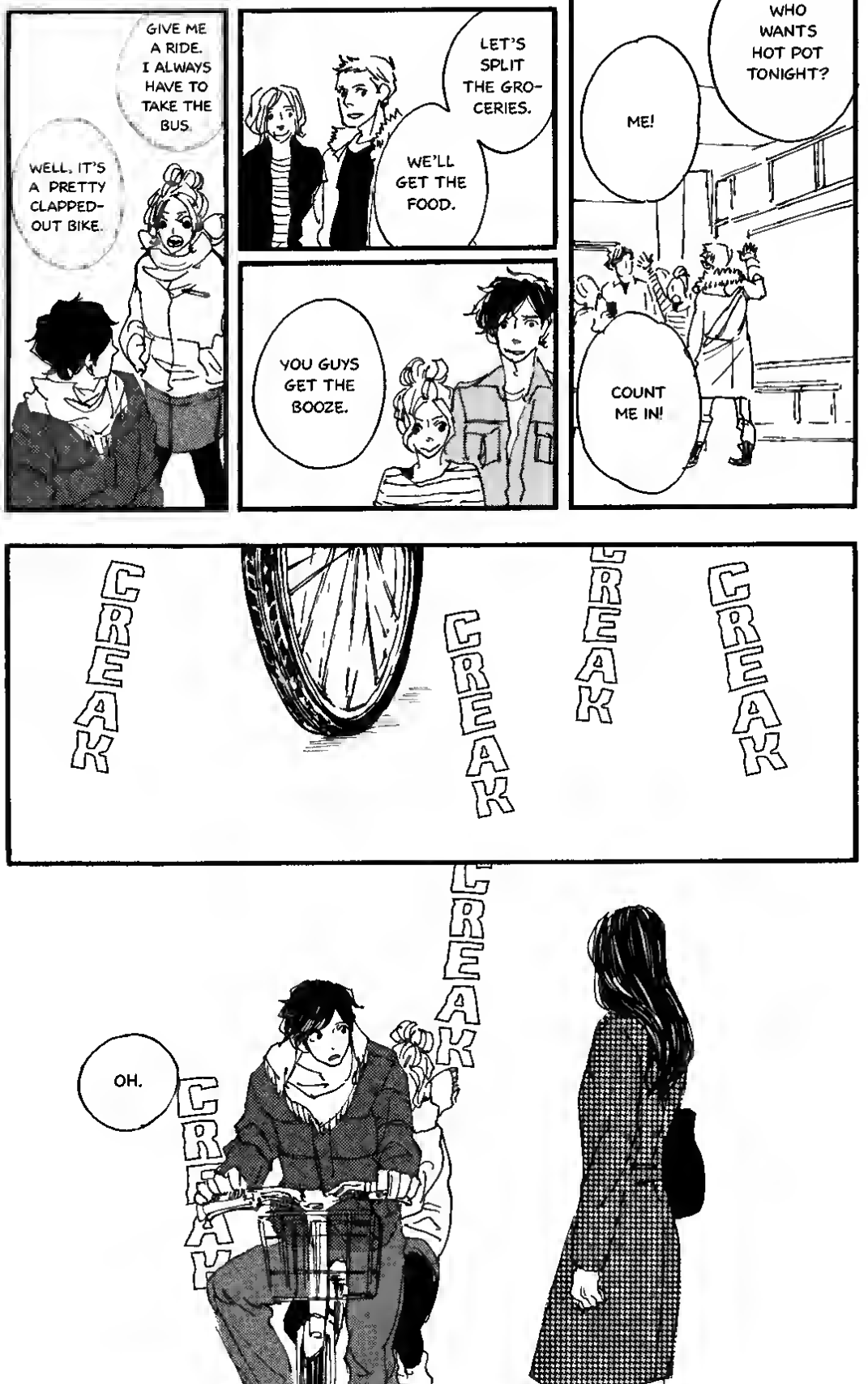
[1] TO CUT COSTS, CAFETERIAS USUALLY THIN DOWN NORMAL CURRY WITH SAUCE.
[2] SOME PLACES SIMPLY WATER DOWN NORMAL CURRY WITH UDON BROTH (SINCE IT'S TOO THICK TO SLURP), AND SOME PLACES WILL MAKE A SPECIAL CURRY BROTH JUST FOR CURRY UDON.

Oh right, I met her at that restaurant before.
Why does she know that I like curry...?

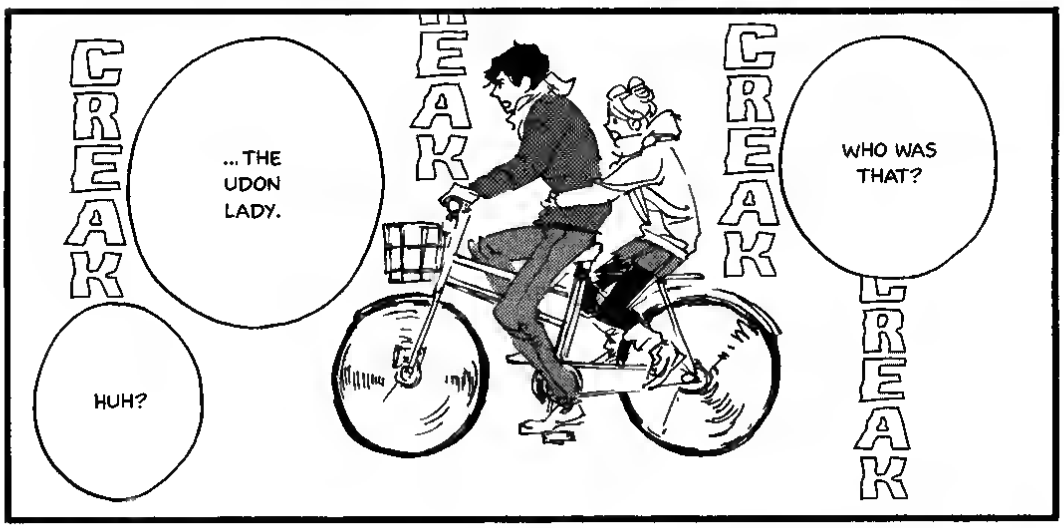
It was to cut down on food costs, but I don't have to worry about that anymore.
Wait, why am I eating udon every day in the first place?


Not that I don't think about her sometimes, but it's the udon, definitely the udon.
Well, the udon is pretty tasty. That's right, I'm eating it because it's tasty.

...the curry udon is delicious.
Anyway ...

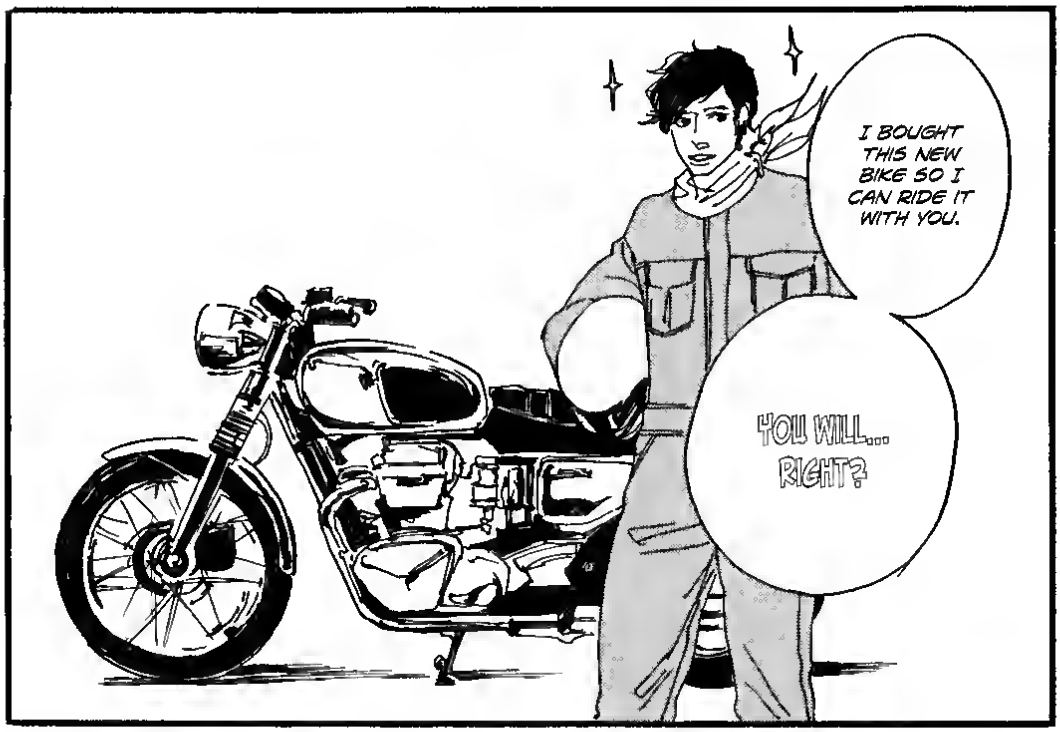

WHO WANTS HOT POT TONIGHT?
ME!
COUNT ME IN!
LET'S SPLIT THE GROCERIES.
WE'LL GET THE FOOD.
YOU GUYS GET THE BOOZE.
GIVE ME A RIDE. I ALWAYS HAVE TO TAKE THE BUS.
WELL, IT'S A PRETTY CLAPPED-OUT BIKE.
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
OH.

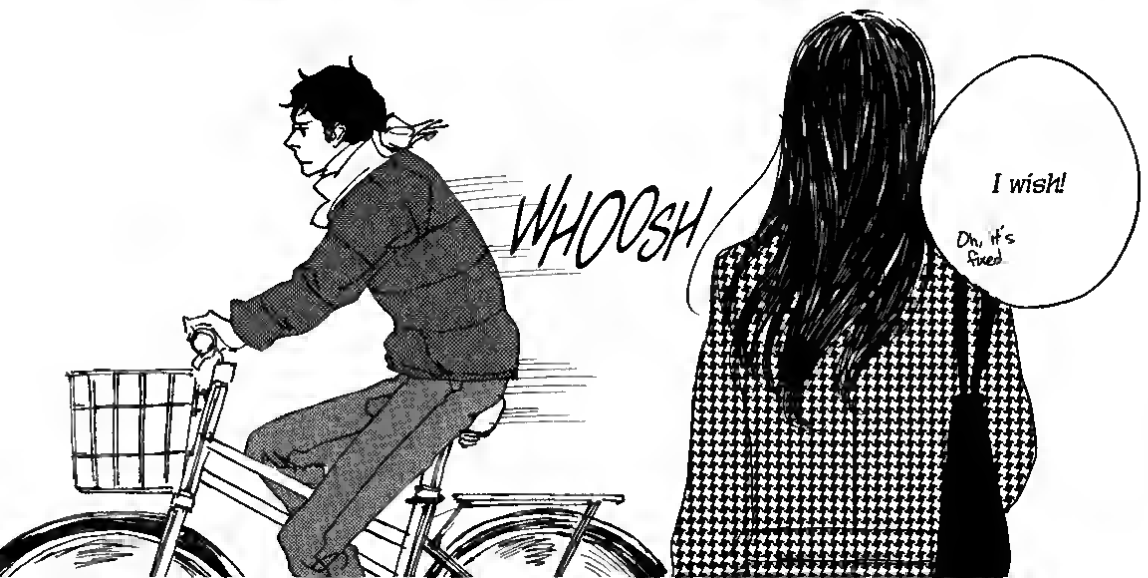
...GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENING.


CREAK
... THE UDON LADY.
HUH?
CREAK
CREAK
WHO WAS THAT?
CREAK

YOU SHOULD RUB SOME OIL ON IT.
YOUR BIKE.
IF YOU MAINTAIN IT PROPERLY, YOU CAN RIDE IT FOR A LONG TIME...
HUH?

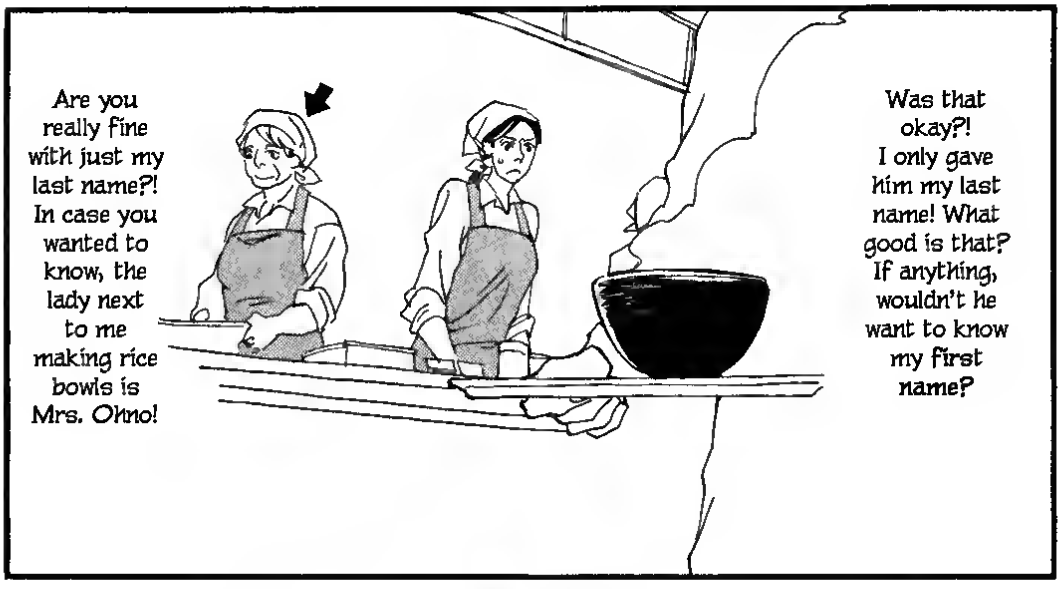
WHY NOT?
THERE'S... NO NEED FOR THAT.


I BOUGHT THIS NEW BIKE SO I CAN RIDE IT WITH YOU.
YOU WILL... RIGHT?

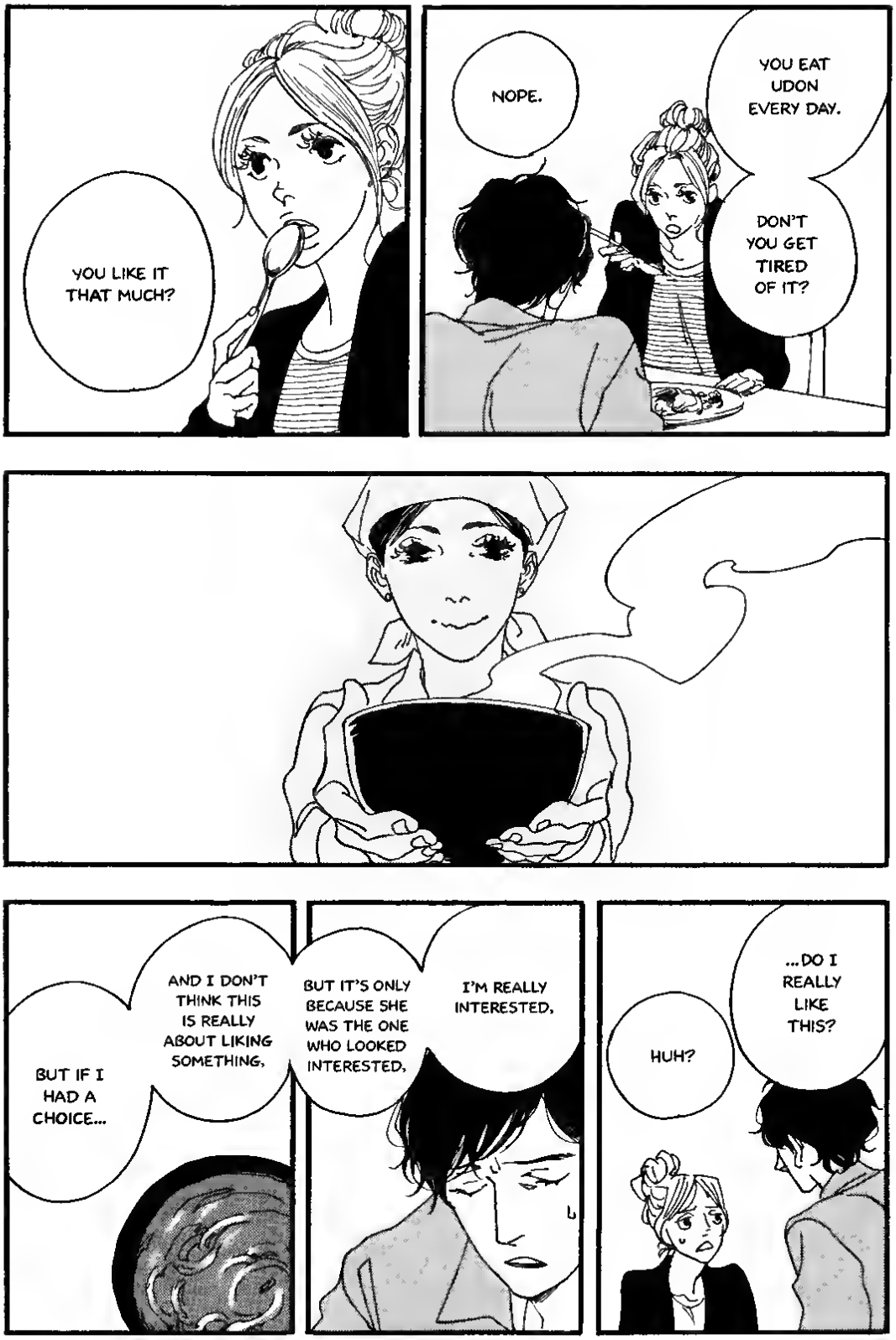

WHOOSH
I wish!
Oh, it's fixed

CURRY UDON?
YES, AND ONE MORE THING...
SOMETHING ELSE?
That's all I know.
She's the udon lady.
UM... DO YOU MIND...
...TELLING ME YOUR NAME?
...IT'S MURATA.

...Wait!

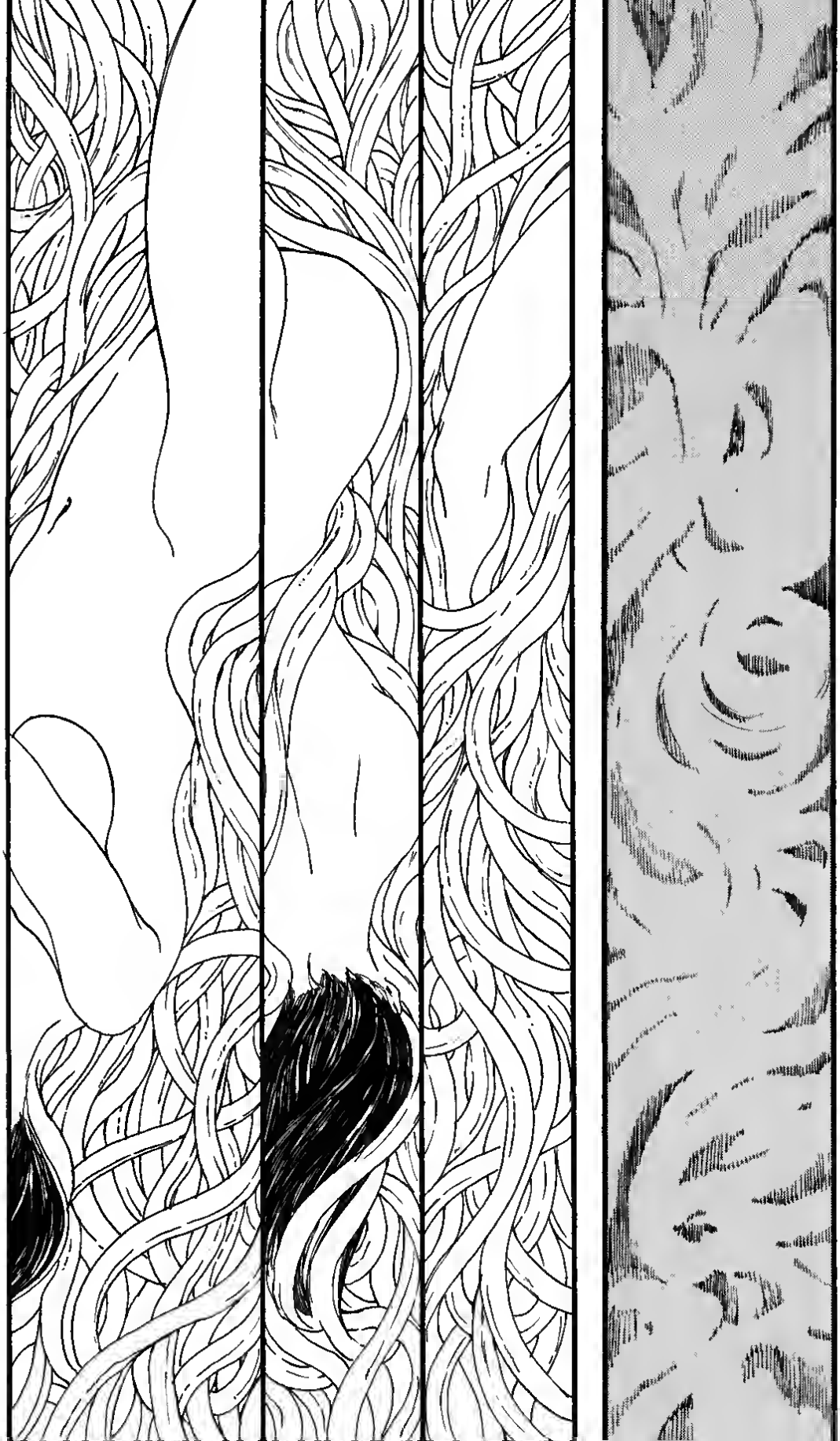

Are you really fine with just my last name?! In case you wanted to know, the lady next to me making rice bowls is Mrs. Ohno!
Was that okay?! I only gave him my last name! What good is that? If anything, wouldn't he want to know my first name?

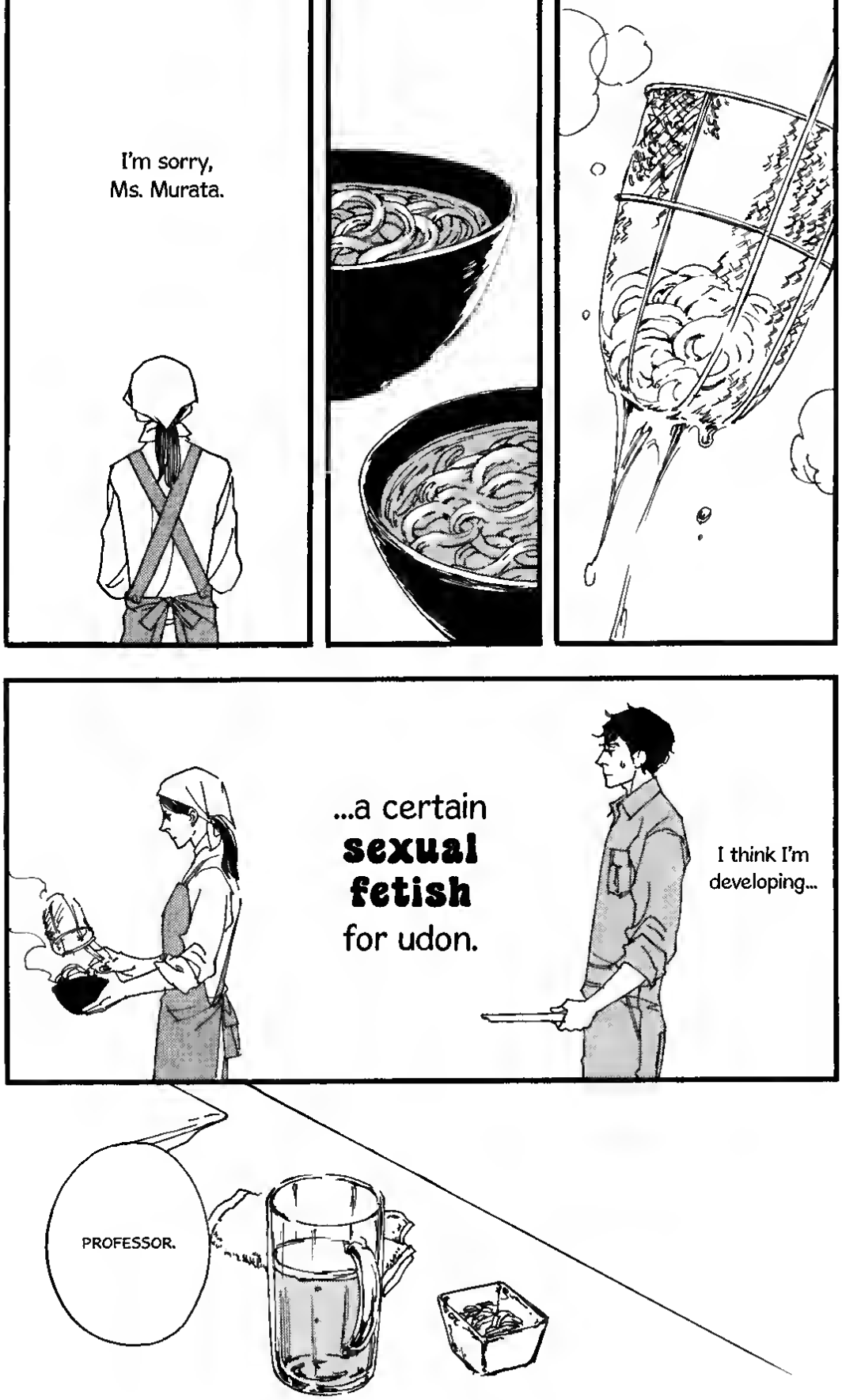
Udon Murata
is all I know about her...
Oh no... I only got her last name. That's way too little information...


YOU LIKE IT THAT MUCH?
NOPE.
YOU EAT UDON EVERY DAY.
DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF IT?
BUT IF I HAD A CHOICE...
AND I DON'T THINK THIS IS REALLY ABOUT LIKING SOMETHING,
BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE SHE WAS THE ONE WHO LOOKED INTERESTED,
I'M REALLY INTERESTED,
HUH?
...DO I REALLY LIKE THIS?

THEN IT'S... AN ABSOLUTE YES.
...WHAT?
WHAT IS THIS?
SO...

IT'S UDON.
I FEEL IT SINKING IN.
OH, I SEE.
SEAWEED.
AND THE BLACK STUFF ON THE BOTTOM...
A CERTAIN EROTIC CHARM.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT...




I'm sorry,
Ms. Murata.
...a certain
sexual
fetish
for udon.
I think I'm
developing...
PROFESSOR.

HAVE YOU EVER GONE OUT WITH A STUDENT?
HM? WHAT'S UP, KINO?
OH, SORRY, THAT WAS A BAD EXAMPLE. I WAS JUST WONDERING IF AN AGE GAP COULD BE WORKED OUT.
NO WAY, THEY'D SACK ME FOR THAT.
HOW OLD WOULD YOU SAY YOUR LIMIT IS?

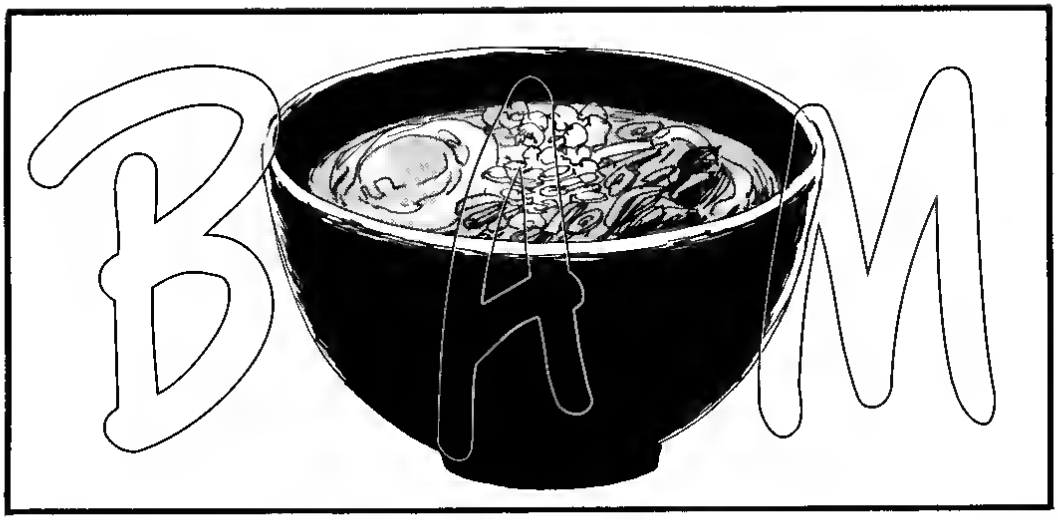
I'M NOT TALKING THAT OLD.
I'D HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TAKING CARE OF HER...
BUT OLDER WOMEN CAN ALSO BE... TRICKY...
OLDEST? OR YOUNGEST?
I'M NOT A PEDO-PHILE.
YOU SERIOUS ?
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I WAS INTO OLDER WOMEN.
I HAD SOME SUGAR MOMMAS BACK IN THE DAY.
YOU GOT YOUR EYES ON SOMEONE?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

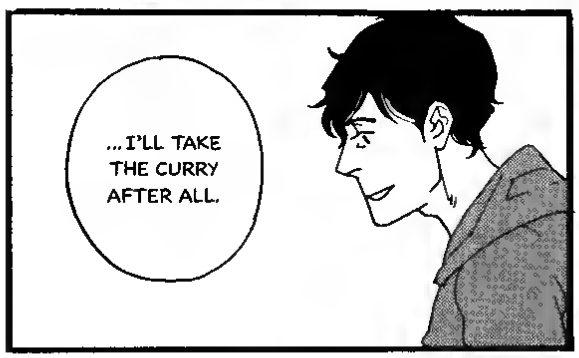
IT'S NOT A TEACHER.
DON'T GO AFTER TEACHERS, YOU'LL GET THEM FIRED.
...HMM.
EEEEH!
IF YOU GET DUMPED, YOU CAN COME TO ME.
YOU'RE ADORABLE, KINO. I'M CHEERING FOR YOU, MAN.

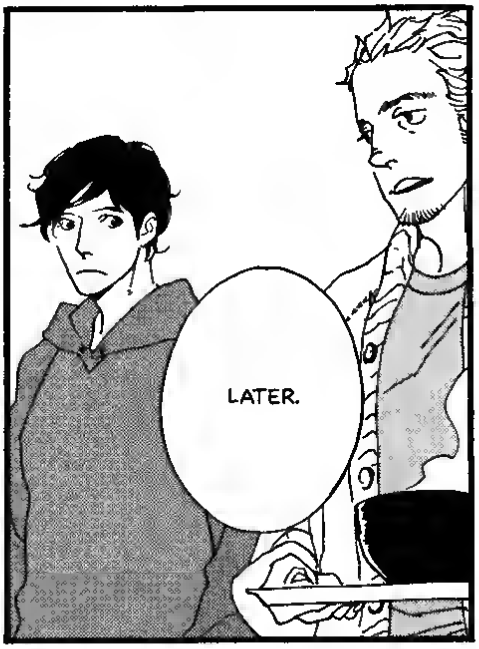
SECOND FLOOR...
CLASSROOM CHANGE.
MS. MURA—

CHIKA!

CURRY?
NO...
A DIFFERENT ONE TODAY...
OH, PROFESSOR TANAKA.
HEY.
...
HI.
?

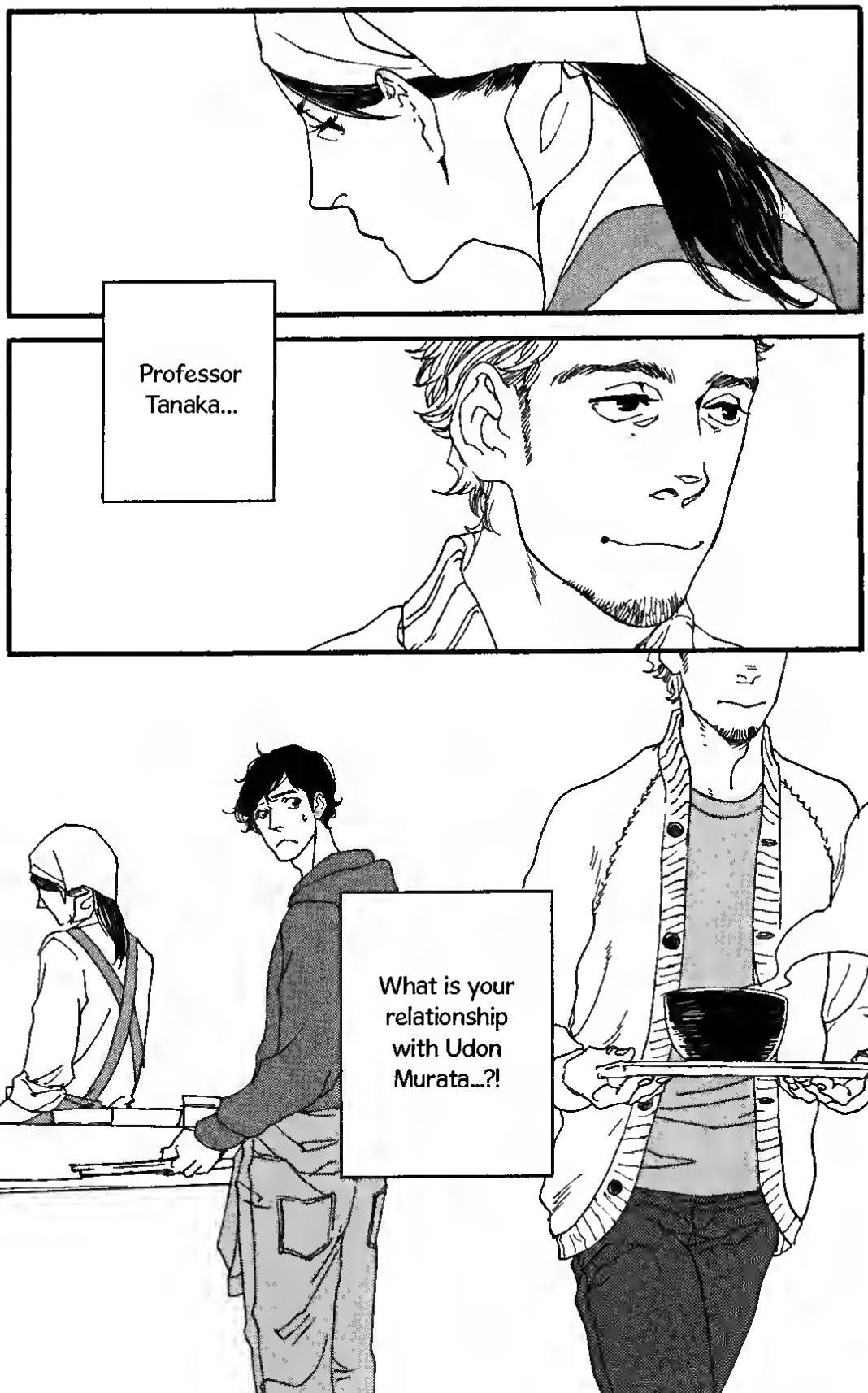




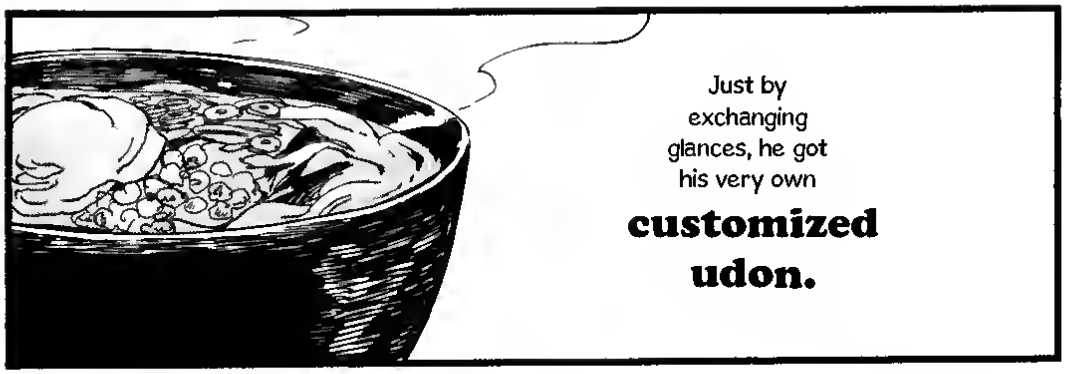



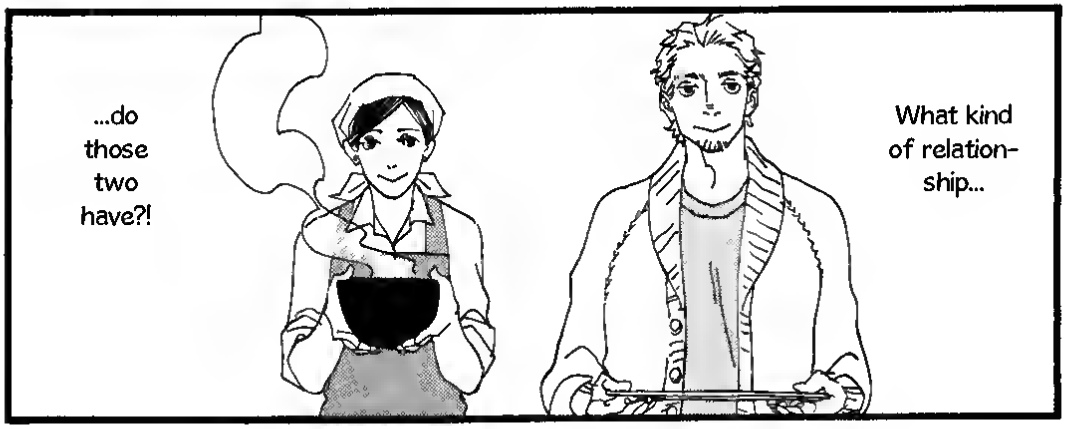

Just by exchanging glances...

...she served him a veggie udon with seaweed, tenkasu, and cooked egg with extra scallions.

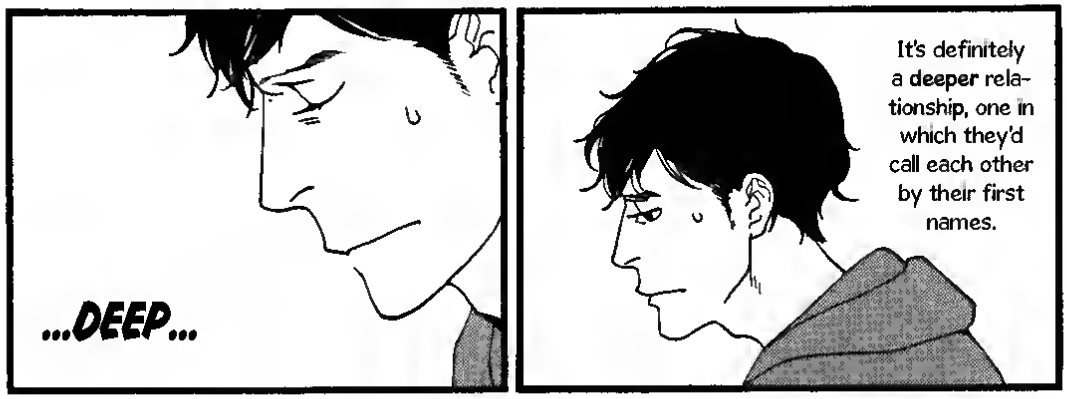

Professor Tanaka...
What is your relationship with Udon Murata...?!

# 2nd Bowl


Just by exchanging glances, he got his very own
customized udon.


...do those two have?!
What kind of relation-ship...

That would be the same as me.
He doesn't seem... like a regular.


...DEEP...
It's definitely a deeper relationship, one in which they'd call each other by their first names.

Is she his model?

...NO GOOD, I CAN'T GET THE SKIN TEXTURE RIGHT.
I'LL HAVE TO...
...SEE FOR MYSELF...

Professor Tanaka...

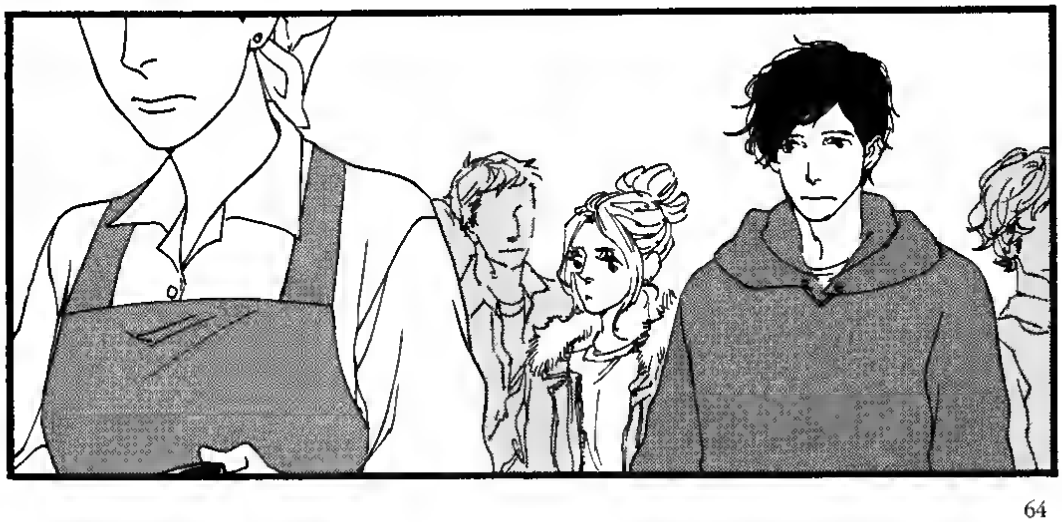
What kind of man are you...?!
Oops
!
CRASH
!
GONK

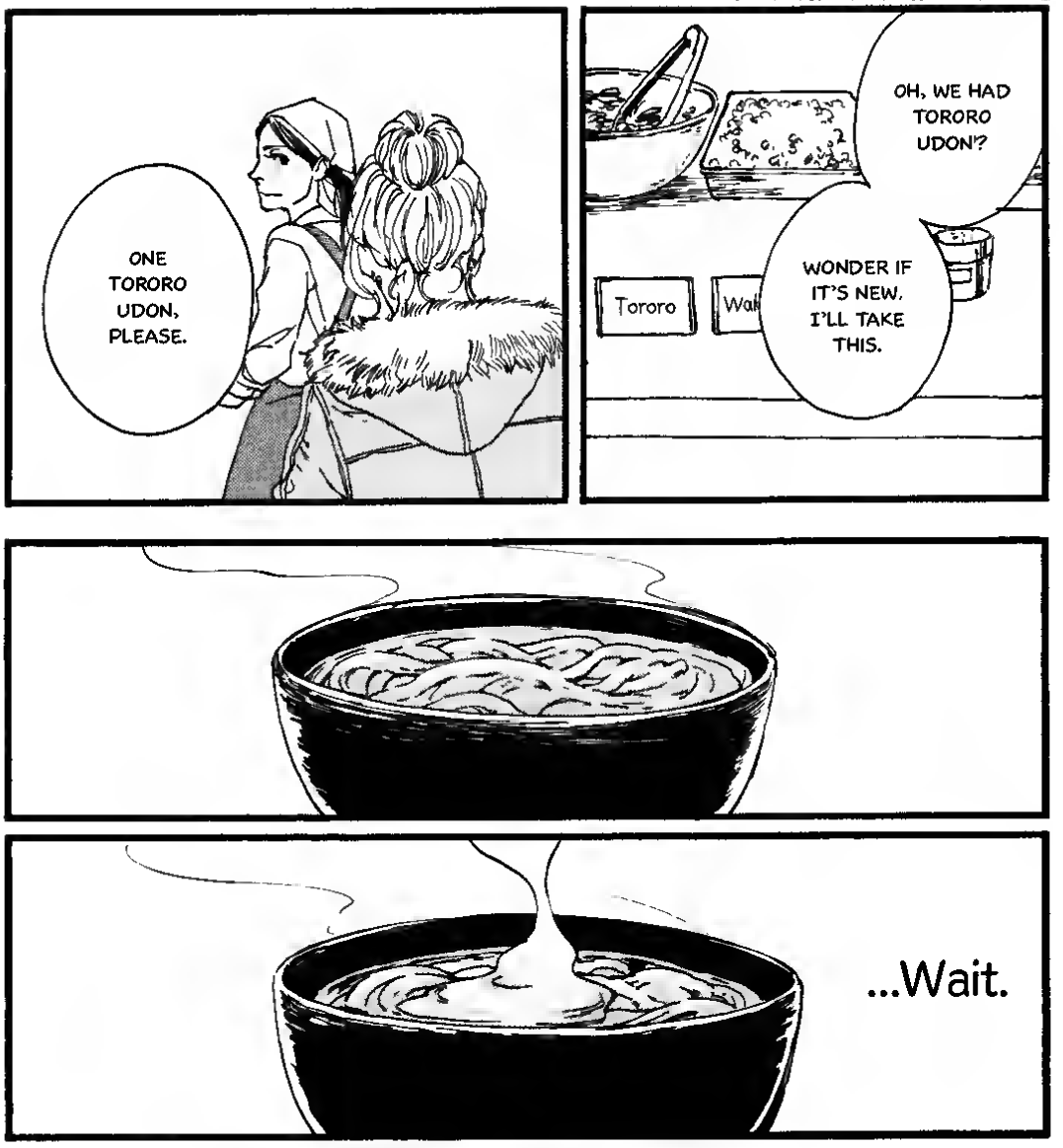
munch
munch

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

YOU'RE TREATING ME TO LUNCH FOR A WEEK.
...SURE.

I'M...
...SO SORRY.



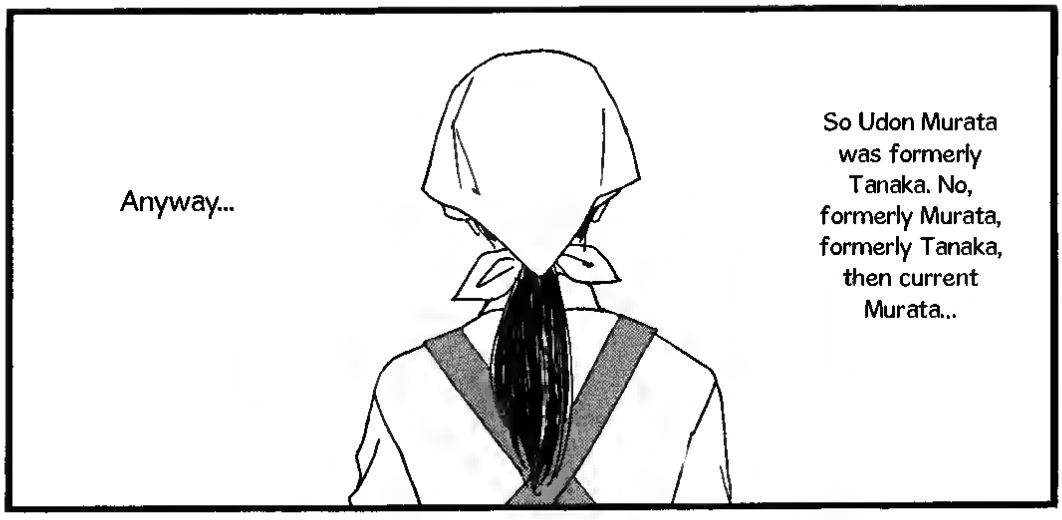

ONE TORORO UDON, PLEASE.
OH, WE HAD TORORO UDON!?
WONDER IF IT'S NEW. I'LL TAKE THIS.
Tororo
...Wait.
Isn't that too porno-graphic?
Tororo... Tororo udon...

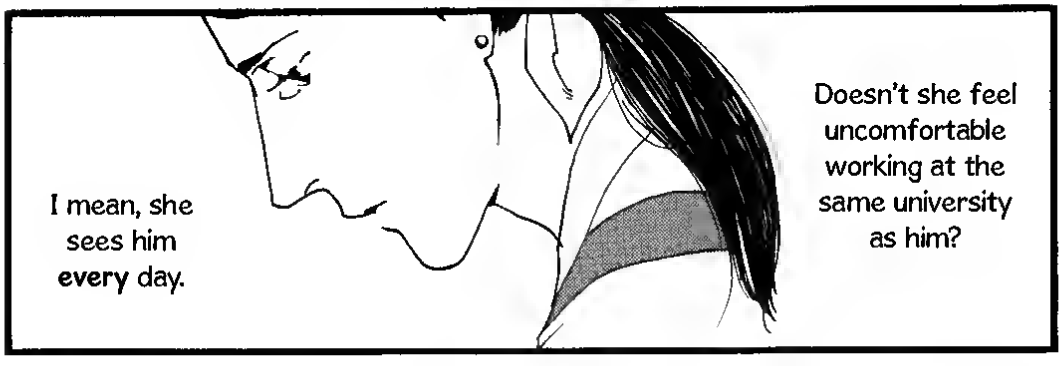
YOU ADDED ONTO IT.
OH, THEY HAD IT AT THE CAFETERIA, HUH.
PROFESSOR.
THE WHITE STUFF...
...IS TORORO.

ME?
DEFINITELY UDON.
DO YOU PREFER UDON OR SOBA?
YOU WERE EATING SOME CRAZY UDON.
...OF COURSE.
YOU MEAN CHIKA?
OH YEAH, ABOUT THAT UDON LADY...

SHE'S MY EX-WIFE.
... HUH?

SERIOUSLY?
I'M SERIOUS.
...not good.
That's ...

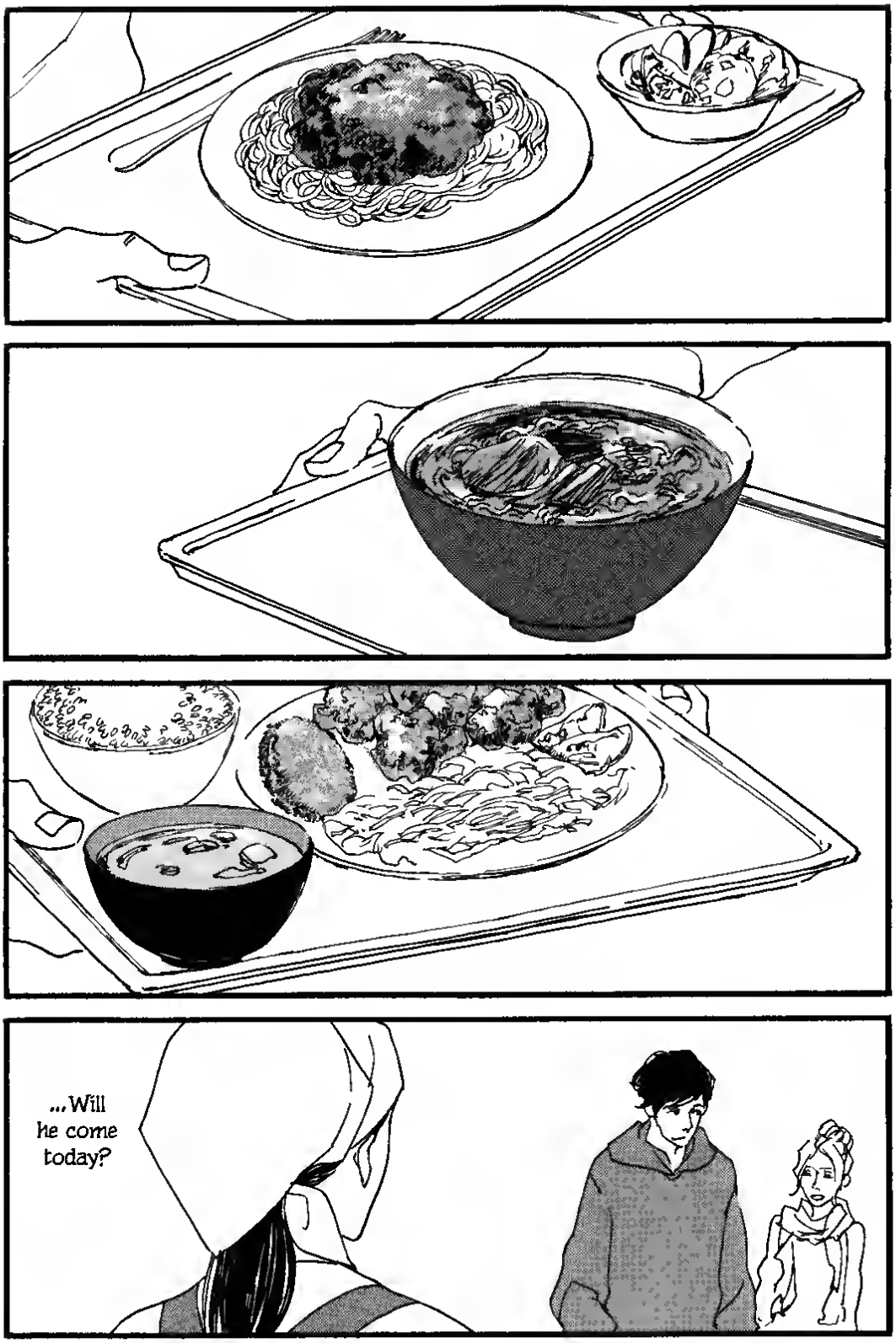

Anyway...
So Udon Murata was formerly Tanaka. No, formerly Murata, formerly Tanaka, then current Murata...


I mean, she sees him **every** day.
Doesn't she feel uncomfortable working at the same university as him?

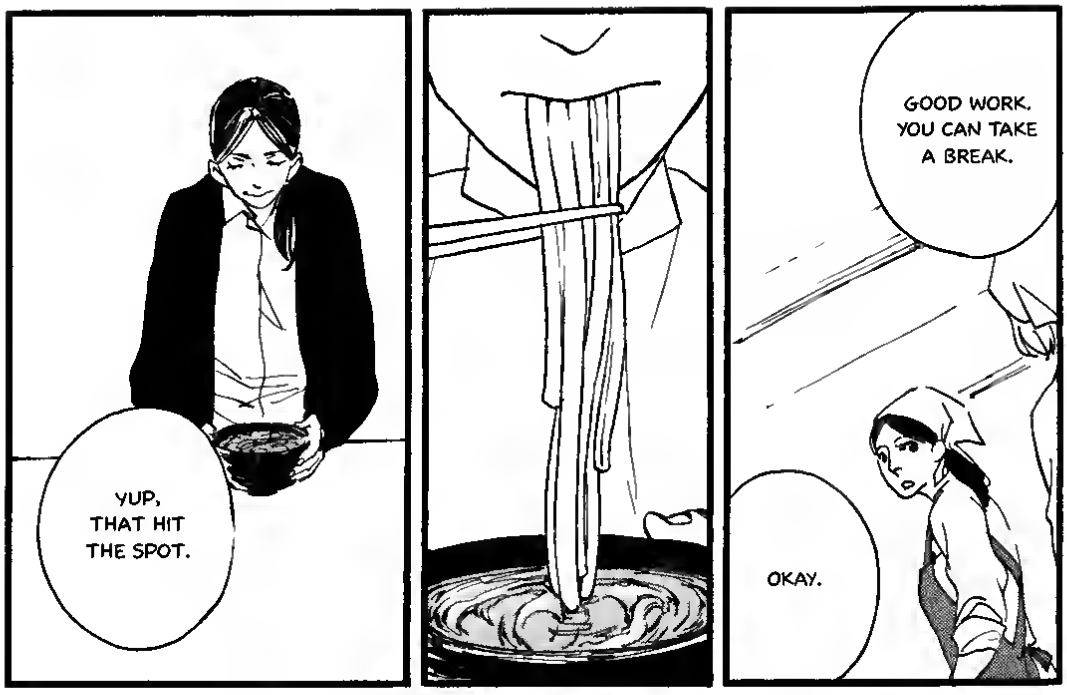
HUH?

[1] REFERENCE TO *KUMA NO KO WOOF* (LIT. WOOF THE BEAR CUB) THAT QUESTIONS IF WE'RE MADE UP OF THE THINGS WE EAT

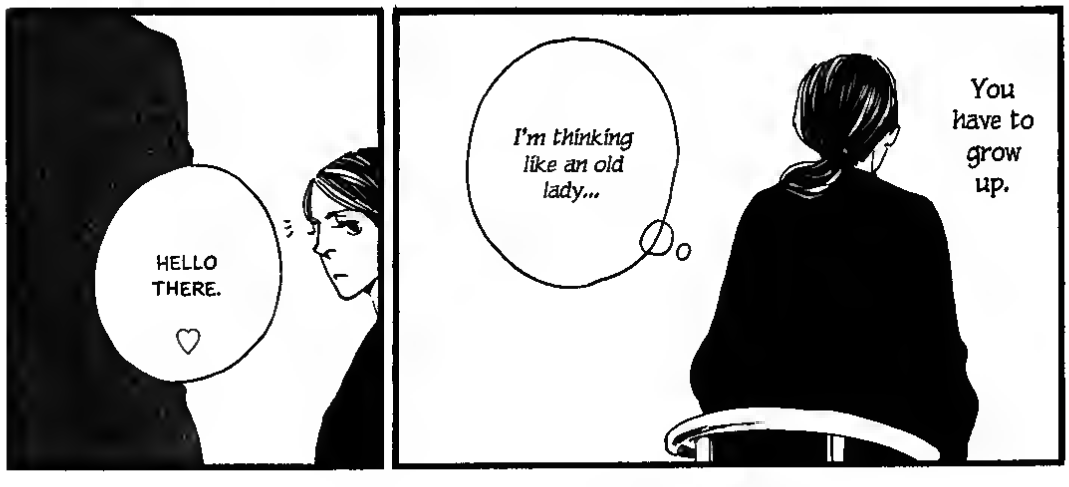
WHAT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MADE UP OF UDON, KINO.
REMEMBER? THAT BOOK ABOUT A BEAR[1] WE READ IN GRADE SCHOOL.
IT'S NOT UDON!
THOUGHT I'D CHANGE IT UP.
THE CURRY TASTES LIKE SAUCE...
DON'T YOU MEAN IT TASTES LIKE CURRY?
...doesn't order udon these days.
He...


...Will he come today?

A BOWL OF RICE TOPPED WITH CHICKEN AND EGGS COOKED TOGETHER.

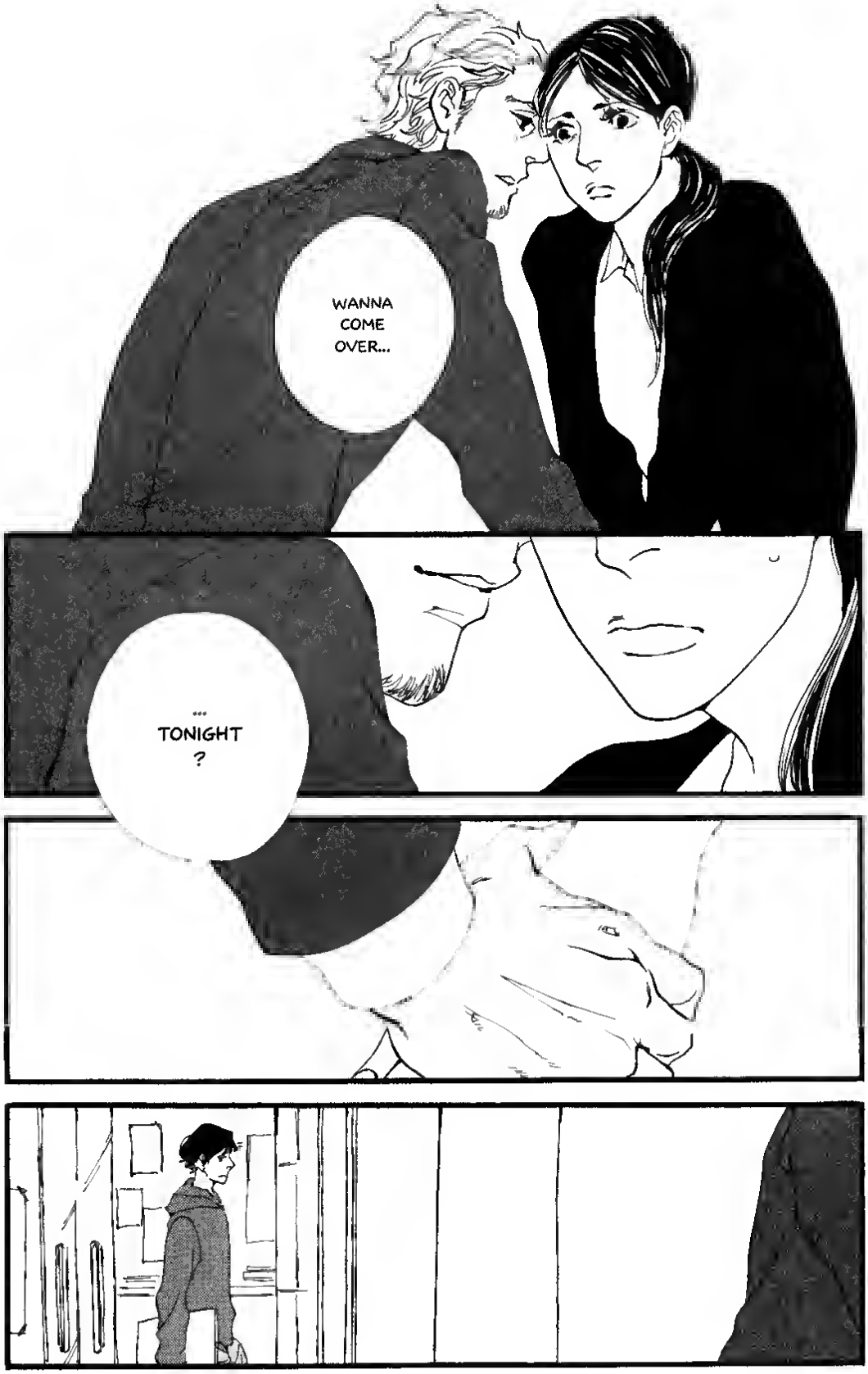

YUP, THAT HIT THE SPOT.
GOOD WORK. YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK.
OKAY.

It isn't a good thing to be eating only udon at his age.
It doesn't matter what he eats.


HELLO THERE. ♡
I'm thinking like an old lady...
You have to grow up.

CHIKA...
...WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DO I NEED A REASON TO TALK TO YOU?
YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTIER LATELY.

HUH ?!
I'M SORRY!
I'LL CLEAN IT UP.


WANNA COME OVER...
... TONIGHT ?

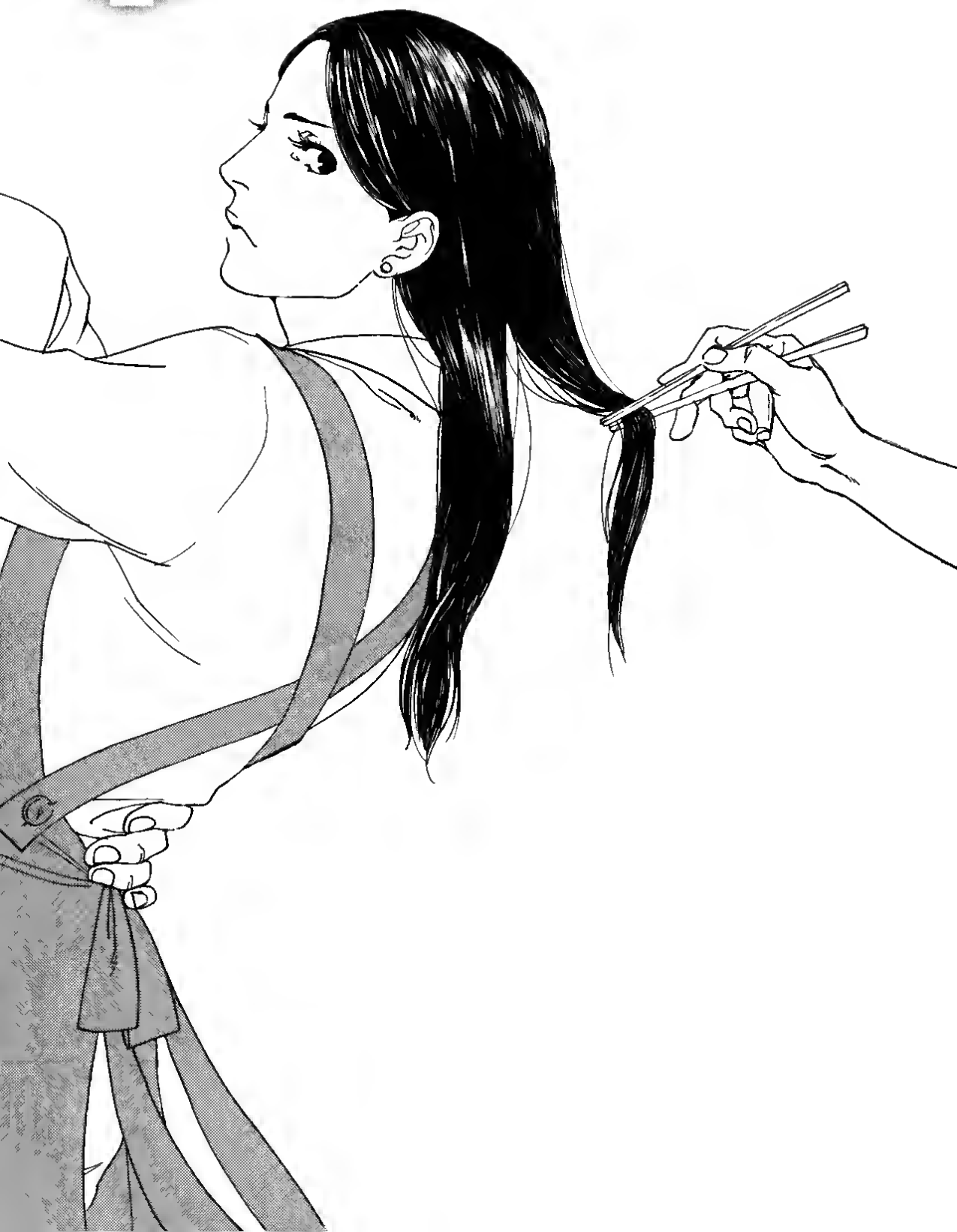
...WHAT A BORING ANSWER.
OF COURSE NOT.
WHAT?
HOLD ONTO IT. I'LL PICK IT UP SOMETIME.
I GOT SOME GOOD SAKE FROM NIIGATA. SO I THOUGHT I'D SHARE...
FINE THEN. I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

...UM.
SIGH
LISTEN...
MY NAME'S KINO.
YOU...

IF THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, JUST TELL ME!
WELL...
THEN...
...UH.

Whaaat?
WHY DID YOU BREAK UP...
...WITH PROFESSOR TANAKA?

# 3rd Bowl

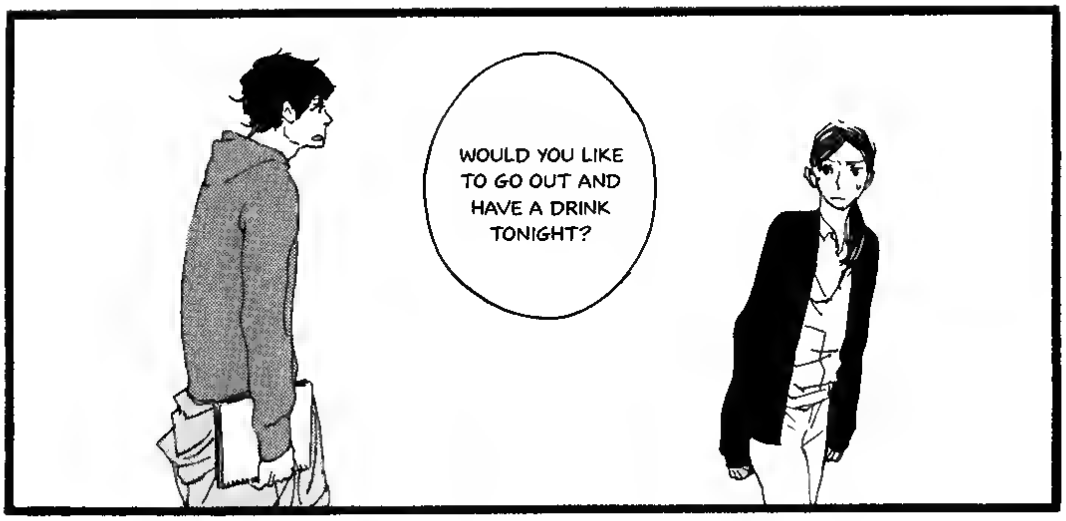


How do you know about that?!
UH... WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?
... PROFESSOR TANAKA.
Damn him...!
OH, RIGHT. YOU'RE STUDYING OIL PAINTING, HUH.
ARE YOU ATTENDING HIS SEMINAR?
YES.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?
...OH, I DIDN'T ASK FOR ANY DETAILS.
I JUST WONDER WHY...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU...
WHY DID WE DO IT...?

...
That's right.
15:13
MAIL 01
15 13
From MASAOMI TANAKA
GOOD LUCK
REPLY OK MENU
flip
OH? SORRY.
YOUR PHONE'S RINGING.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
I couldn't stand the way he always acted like this!
Now I remember !
RIGHT ...
THE REASON ...
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
...YES.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S SOMETHING YOU TALK ABOUT...
...DURING LUNCHTIME IN A CAFETERIA.
...I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
...SO, THEN...




...At least I need to know how matters stand.

Why am I sitting here with my ex-husband's student?

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY ASKING ME THAT?
...UH.
HOW ABOUT YOU, MS. MURATA?
THAT'S YOUNG... WELL, OF COURSE YOU ARE, BEING STILL A STUDENT.
SO, HOW OLD ARE YOU, KINO?
20? 21?
I'M 21.
ER...
OH, GUESS YOU WOULDN'T KNOW. HE'S 38.
I'M 35.
WOW...YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK IT.
KIDDING.
I'M THREE YEARS YOUNGER THAN YOUR PROFESSOR.

WELL, HE INTRODUCED ME TO THAT JOB IN THE CAFETERIA.
...HUH?
ISN'T IT **AWKWARD** WORKING AT THE SAME UNIVERSITY AS HIM?
I MEAN PROFESSOR TANAKA...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO ARE ON GOOD TERMS.
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BREAK UP?
HMM...
I GUESS BECAUSE I WAS REALLY BEGINNING TO HATE HIM...

I WAS WORRIED THAT WE WERE A COUPLE MARRIED IN NAME ONLY.
I WANTED TO ACCOMPANY HIM WHEN HE WENT OVERSEAS TO STUDY.
I WAS THE ONE WHO RUSHED THE MARRIAGE.
...BUT WE STARTED FIGHTING EVERY DAY... WELL, I'M THE ONE WHO WAS MAD.
I LIKED THAT PART OF HIM TOO, SO I USED TO LAUGH IT OFF...
BUT EVEN AFTER WE GOT MARRIED HE ACTED THE SAME TOWARD EVERYONE.
He'd go along with anyone who invited him
THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK BY MYSELF.

WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE YOU GOT MARRIED?
I DIDN'T HAVE A JOB.
BUT IT WAS TOUGH.
I WAS AN ART MODEL.
Sounds familiar?
... SERIOUSLY?
So my fantasies were right...?!
YES. I GOT INTO IT BECAUSE OF HIM.

I WAS FULL OF MYSELF.
SO THIS IS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE TO HIM, I THOUGHT...
YOU COULD SAY I WAS ENAMORED WITH HIS PAINTINGS.
HAHA, DOES IT SOUND LIKE I AM?
...ARE YOU BRAGGING?
IT'S NOT FAIR, YOU'RE ASKING ALL THE QUESTIONS.
WHOA, HOLD ON. STOP.
THEN—

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS EAT UDON AT THE CAFETERIA?
You're drunk, aren't you...? Your eyes are glassy...
SO, KINO...
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE SICK OF UDON...
...YOU CAME BACK FOR MORE.
THAT'S—
THEN YOU STOPPED COMING...
...AND SWITCHED OVER TO LUNCH SET A AND RICE BOWLS.
WHEN YOU DO THAT...
...IT THROWS ME OFF.

SO, FESS UP.
HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL?
I'M IN LO—

...ABOUT UDON.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT UDON NOW?!
ZZZZZZZ

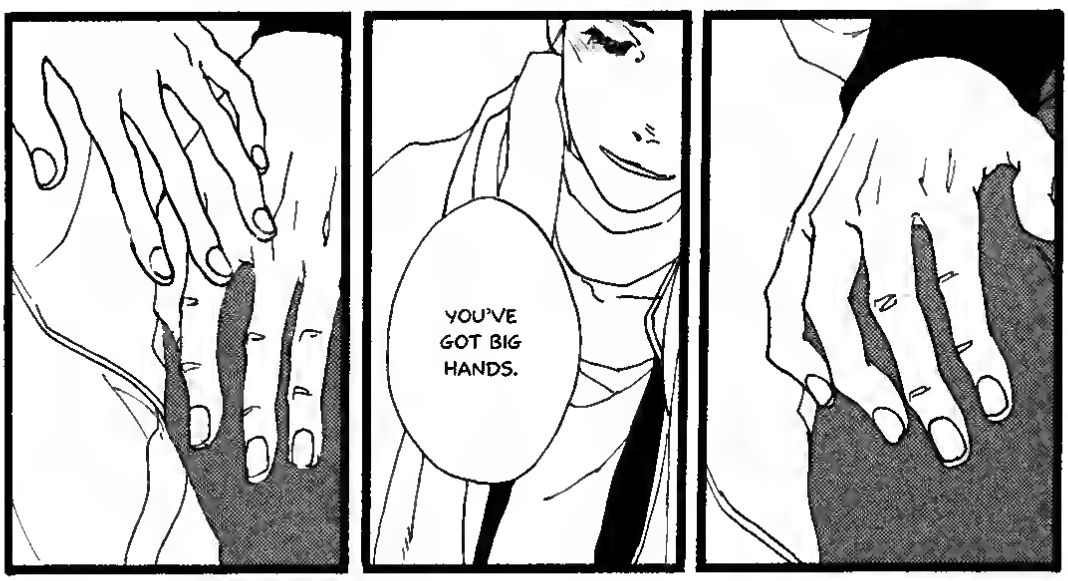
MS. MURATA !
HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER.
COME ON, STAND UP!
NOOO... I'M GONNA SLEEP HEEERE...
YOU LIVE CLOSE TO THE CAMPUS, RIGHT?
CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT TO THE CAB DRIVER?
...OR,
YOU CAN COME TO MY PLACE...
No no no, I can't do that.

PROF. TANAKA
UNIVERSITY
...What should I do?
Call someone at her place?
Someone that'll pick up...
Flip
OUT OF QUESTION.
NAH...

MS. MURATA! I'M GOING TO LEAVE NOW...
IS THIS ADDRESS CORRECT?
YES! I THINK...
I'm sorry, I only have her ID
?!
LET'S SHARE A CAB, KINO.
ARE YOU GETTING ON? OR NOT?
THANK YOU, BUT...
...I CAN GO BACK BY MYSELF!

...

HIC


YOU'VE GOT BIG HANDS.

I have to sort out this mess.

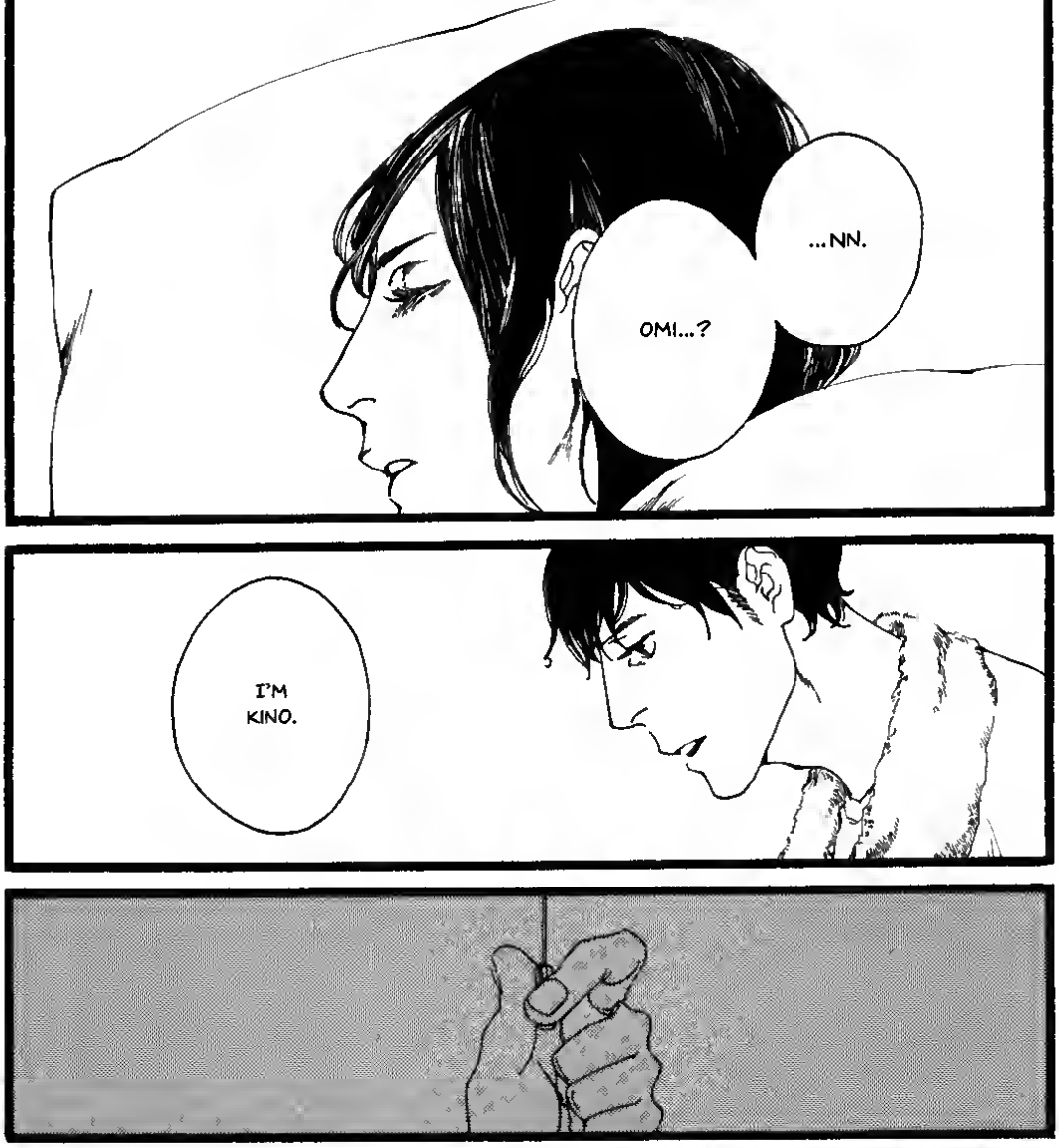
Why on earth am I taking a bath...
...at my professor's ex-wife's place?
BUT...
IT'S FREEZING OUT. YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? YOU NEED TO STAY
GOOD NIGHT.

SO YOU'RE MASAOMI'S STUDENT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MA'AM.
OH, YES.
IS HE DOING WELL?
HE USED TO STOP BY OFTEN. BUT HE'S BEEN BUSY LATELY...
MASAOMI TANAKA
Masaomi..? Right, Professor Tanaka.
But I guess it's typical of him...
You should tell that to him.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIS HEALTH...
HE'S TEACHING WHILE WORKING ON HIS OWN PROJECTS.
What is she talking about? Aren't they supposed to be divorced?!

MY GOODNESS. THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
THAT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THEM
EH?
WELL, I SHOULD GET GOING...
MY FRIEND'S HOUSE IS CLOSE...
I'LL LAY OUT A FUTON FOR YOU, SO PLEASE STAY FOR THE NIGHT.
Take a bath as well.

I need to leave...
...before she wakes up.
...Even though I'm all warmed up.

...MS. MURATA?
... CLOTHES ?!
...Oh no,
don't tell me...!
...NN.
ROL
SNORE
Wait, "good"? Was I disappointed?
Thank God! She's not naked! Good!
YOU'LL... CATCH A COLD.




GOOD
NIGHT,

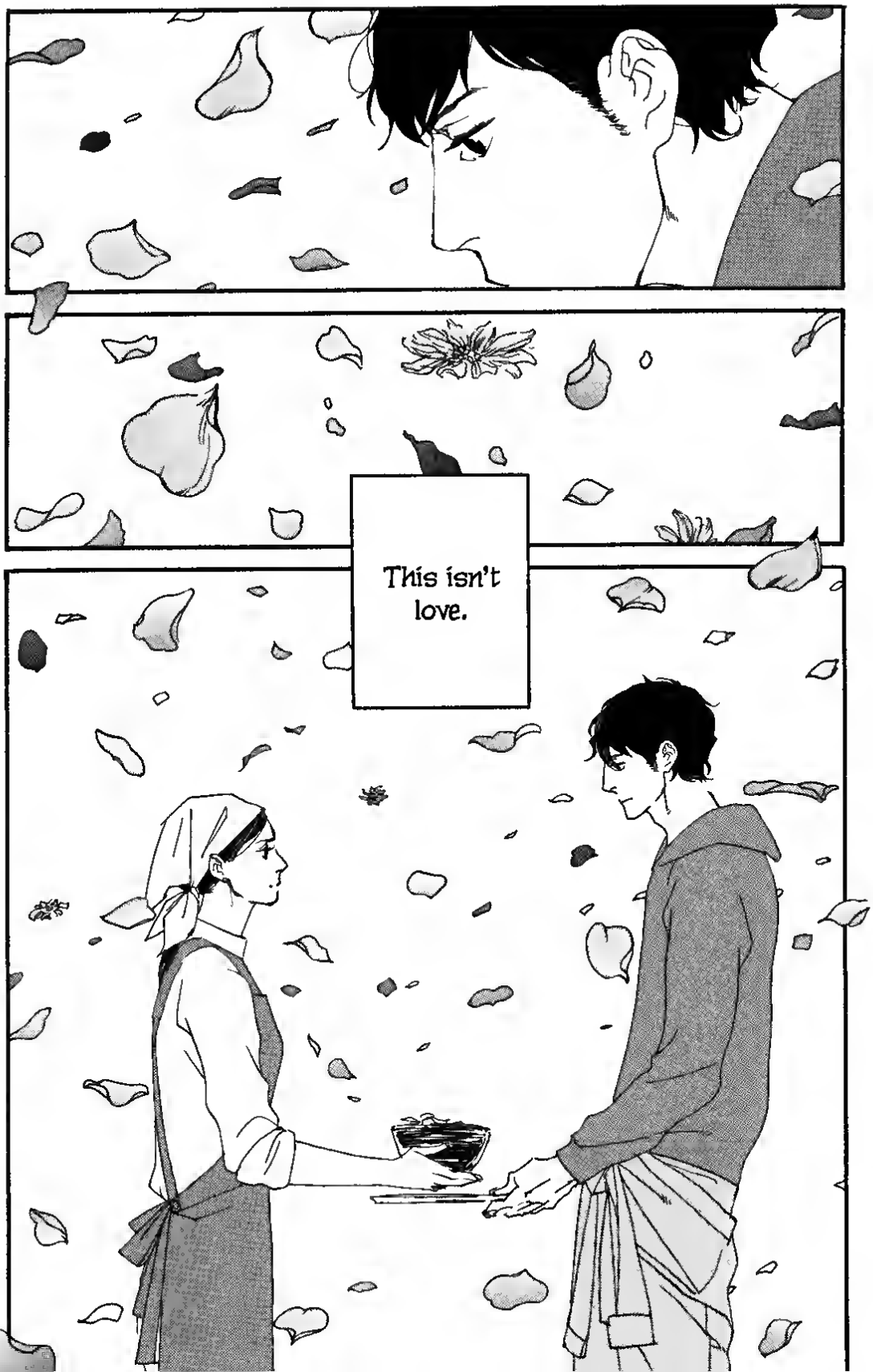
MS.
MURATA.

# 4th Bowl

I don't remember how I got home and into bed.
When I woke up, he was gone.
ONE OF MASAOMI'S STUDENTS BROUGHT YOU HOME.
He's just a typical boy of his age, so unenthusiastic.
A nice boy. A really nice boy, that's all.

I was wearing clothes...
There's no way I would've changed in front of a man.
But what do I call this feeling?
I can spot him in a big crowd.

WAKAME UDON.
And I'm happy...
...that he's eating udon.
Stop it.


This isn't love.

YES?!
...MS. MURATA.
THERE'S... NO TOPPINGS.
OH!
SORRY, I'VE BEEN OUT OF IT.

OH.

...SO.

HOW FAR DID YOU GO?
DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
I...

SHE WAS DRUNK AND COULDN'T GO BACK ON HER OWN...
...SO I WENT WITH HER, AND SHE INVITED ME IN.
THEN I TOOK A BATH...
AND HER MOTHER SAID SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH...
HEH!

...SAW HER HOME.

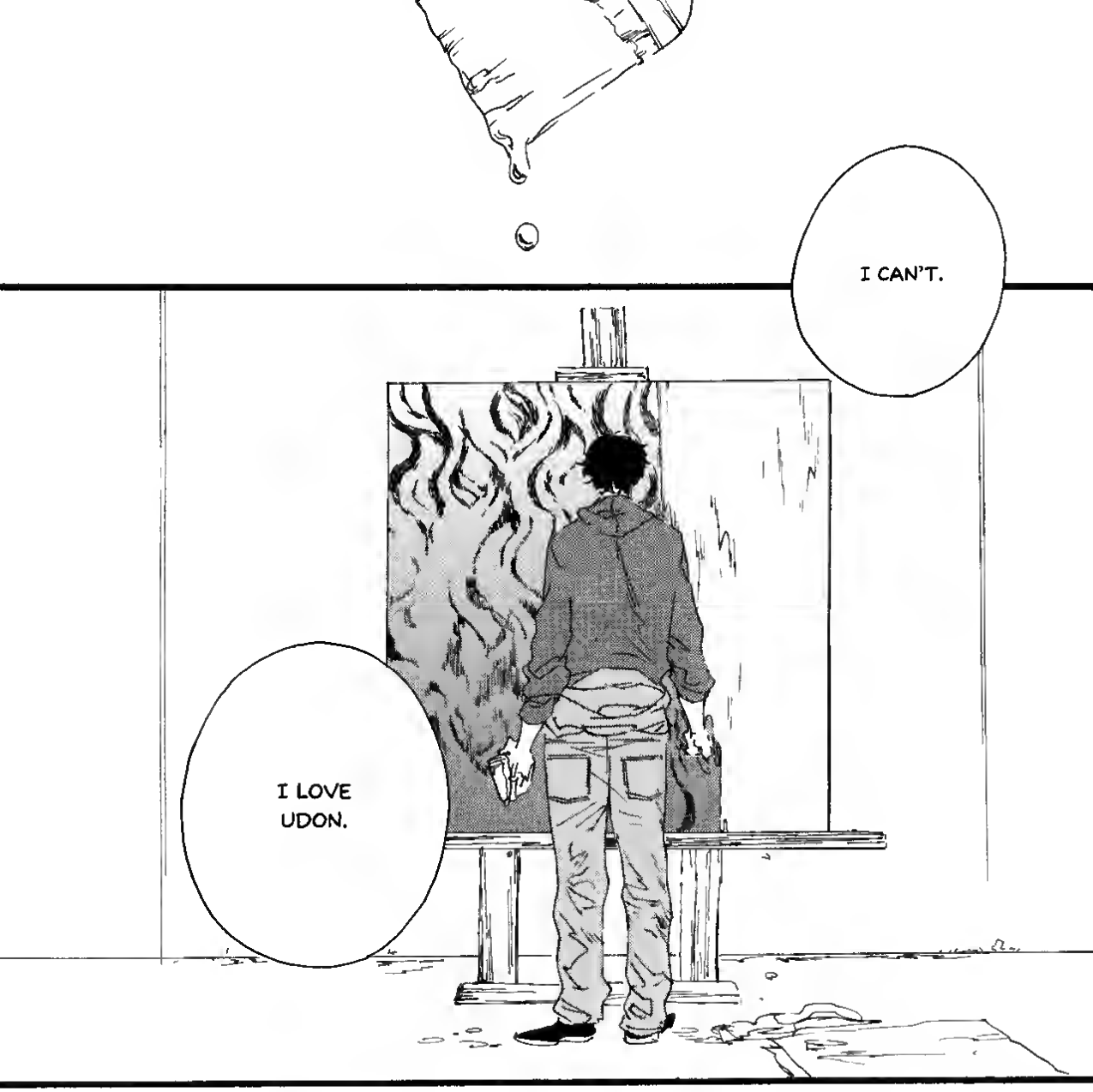
...WHAT'S WRONG?
HEHE!
HEHEHE!
WHAT ?!
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU.
NOTHING ...
YOU'RE... SUCH A NICE GUY, KINO.
MS. MURATA!
LOOK AT THE MESS YOU'RE MAKING!

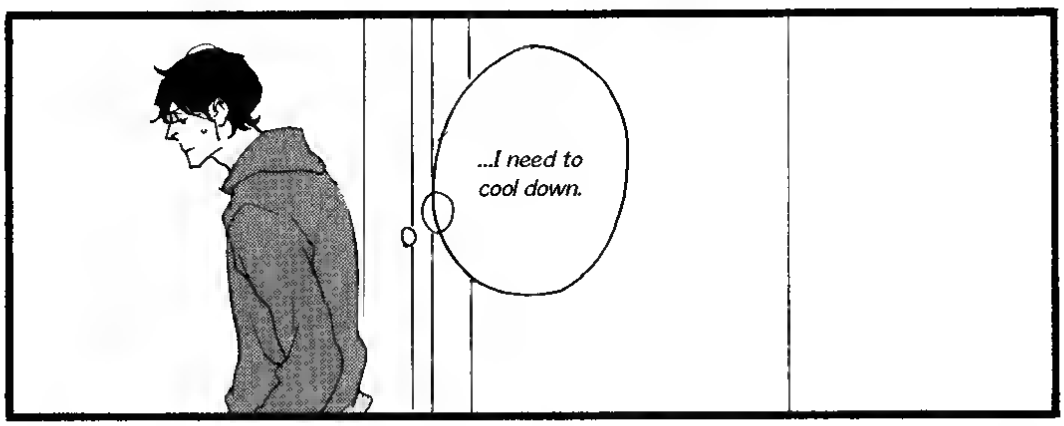
MASAOMI TANAKA
...CHIKA.
YOU LOOK SCARY.
CARE TO EXPLAIN THIS?
WHAT'S THIS TEXT FOR?
MASAOMI TANAKA
GOOD LUCK
I'M INTRIGUED, IS ALL.

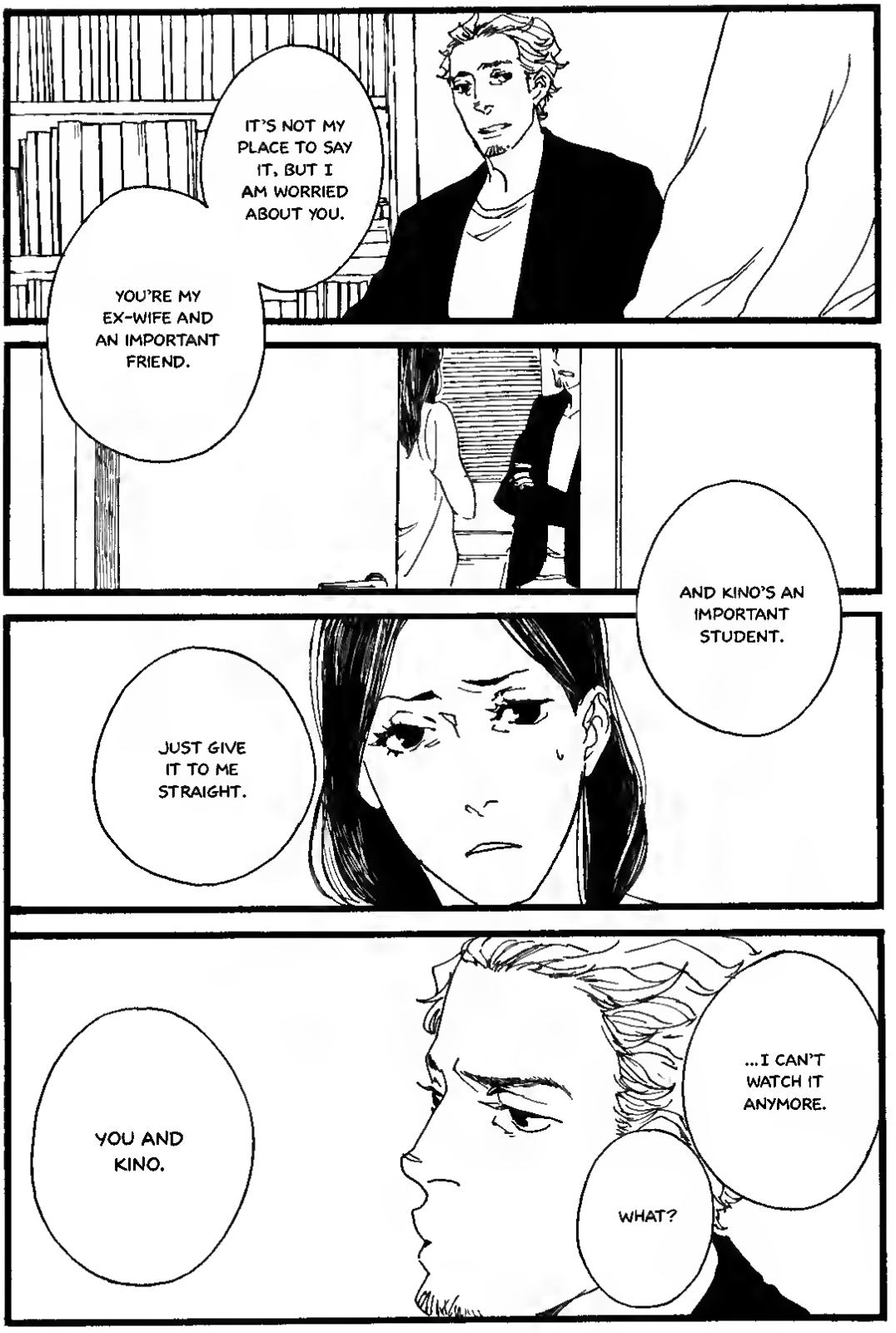
YOU GOT HIM TO YOUR PLACE ON THE FIRST DATE.
BUT YOU'RE GOOD.

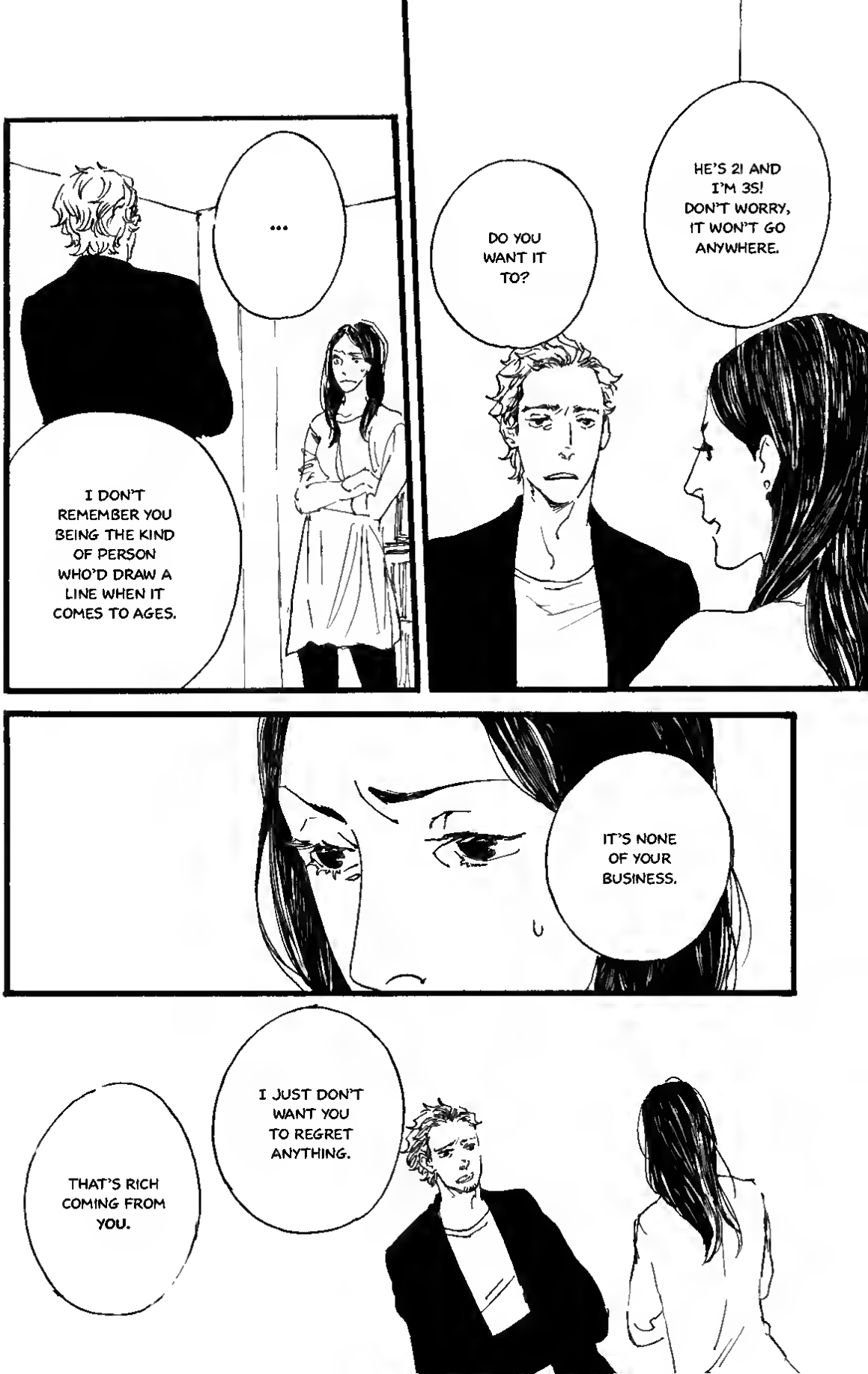
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
...ARE YOU REALLY IN A POSITION TO BE SAYING THAT?

I SHOULD PROBABLY PAINT THIS OVER.


I CAN'T.
I LOVE UDON.


...I need to cool down.


IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY IT, BUT I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE MY EX-WIFE AND AN IMPORTANT FRIEND.
AND KINO'S AN IMPORTANT STUDENT.
JUST GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT.
YOU AND KINO.
WHAT?
...I CAN'T WATCH IT ANYMORE.


...
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU BEING THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D DRAW A LINE WHEN IT COMES TO AGES.
DO YOU WANT IT TO?
HE'S 21 AND I'M 35! DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T GO ANYWHERE.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO REGRET ANYTHING.
THAT'S RICH COMING FROM YOU.

ADMIT IT.

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HIM, AREN'T YOU?

I'M IN LOVE—
...YES.

...OH.

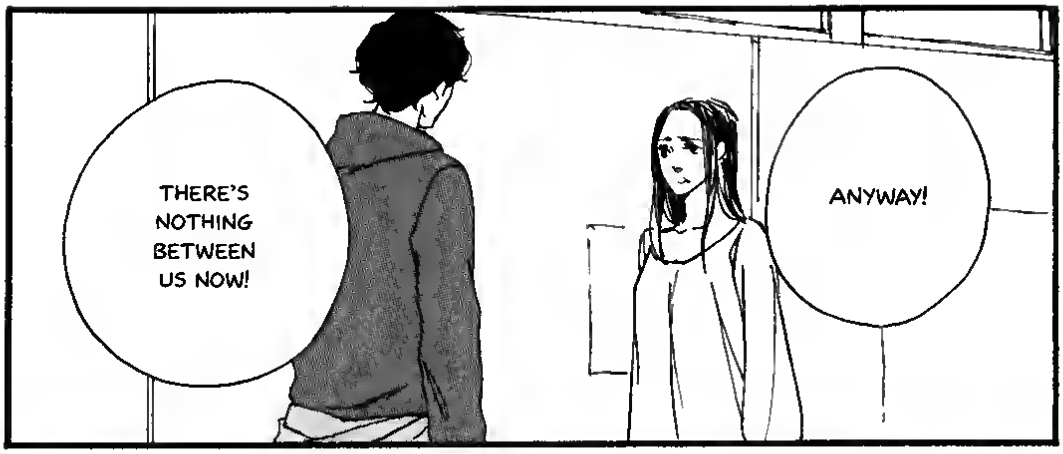
CHIKA!

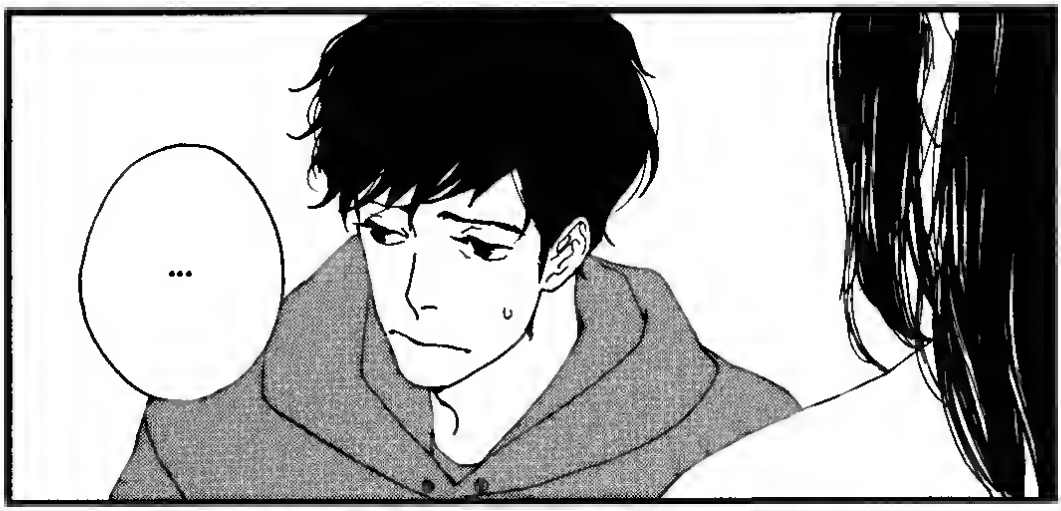
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!

# 5th Bowl

I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR...
...TO RUN AWAY AFTER HEARING THAT.
ERM...
I'M SORRY, BUT...

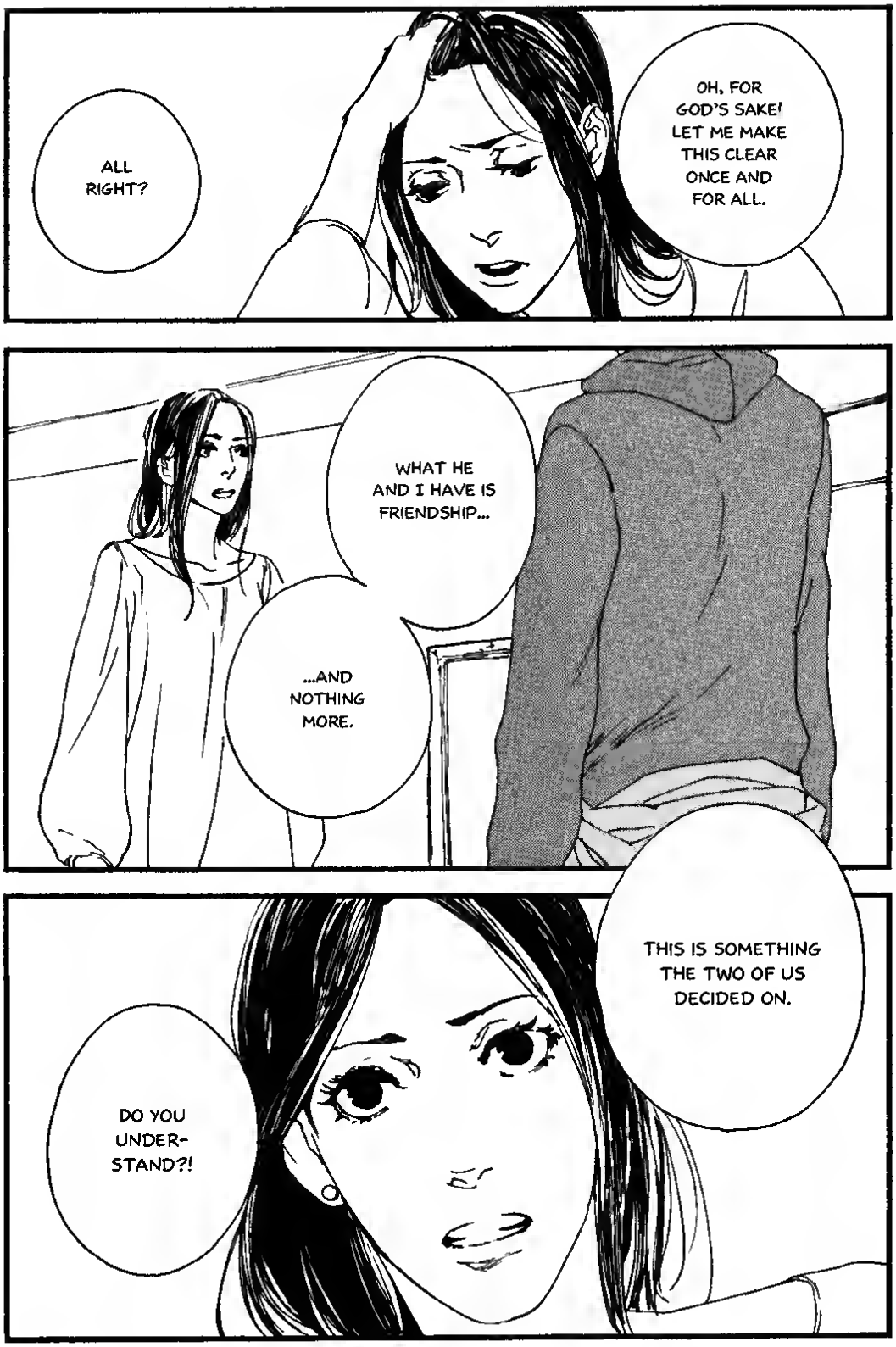
MS. MURATA ...
YOU STILL LOVE PROFESSOR TANAKA, DON'T YOU?
WELL, I LIKE HIM,
BUT ONLY AS A FRIEND.
WAIT, WHAT?
...
You have!
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING AFTER WE GOT DIVORCED.

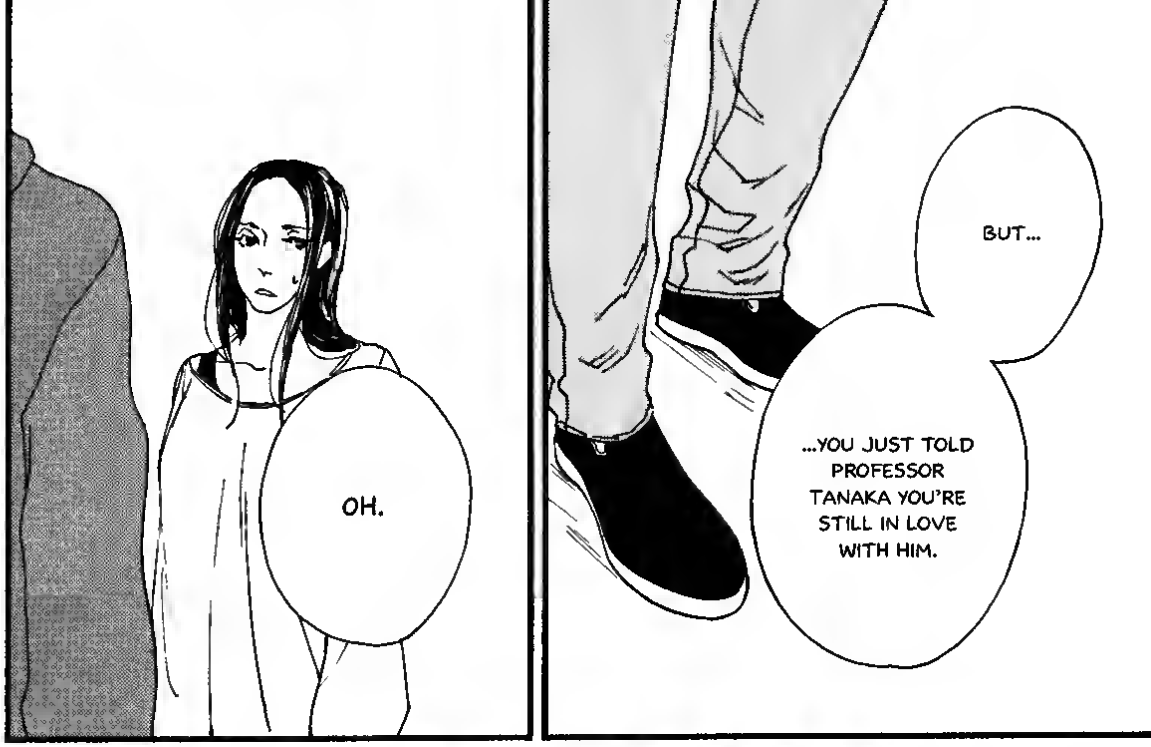

THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN US NOW!
ANYWAY!

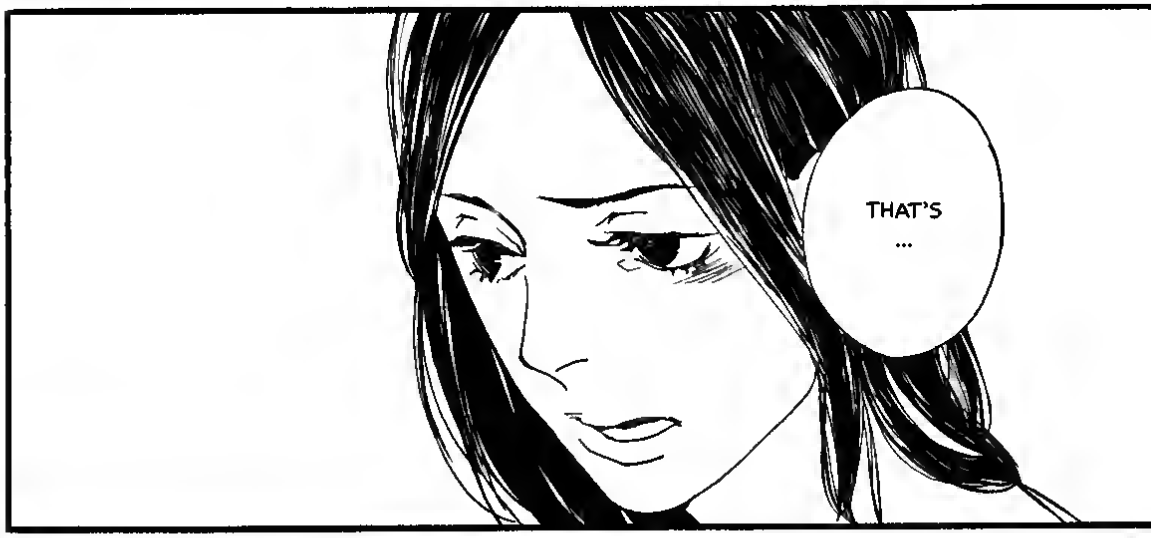

...

ARE ALL DIVORCED COUPLES LIKE THAT?
IT DEPENDS FOR EVERYONE!

I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT FEELS LIKE.


ALL RIGHT?
OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE! LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WHAT HE AND I HAVE IS FRIENDSHIP...
...AND NOTHING MORE.
THIS IS SOMETHING THE TWO OF US DECIDED ON.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!


OH.
BUT...
...YOU JUST TOLD PROFESSOR TANAKA YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH HIM.


THAT'S ...

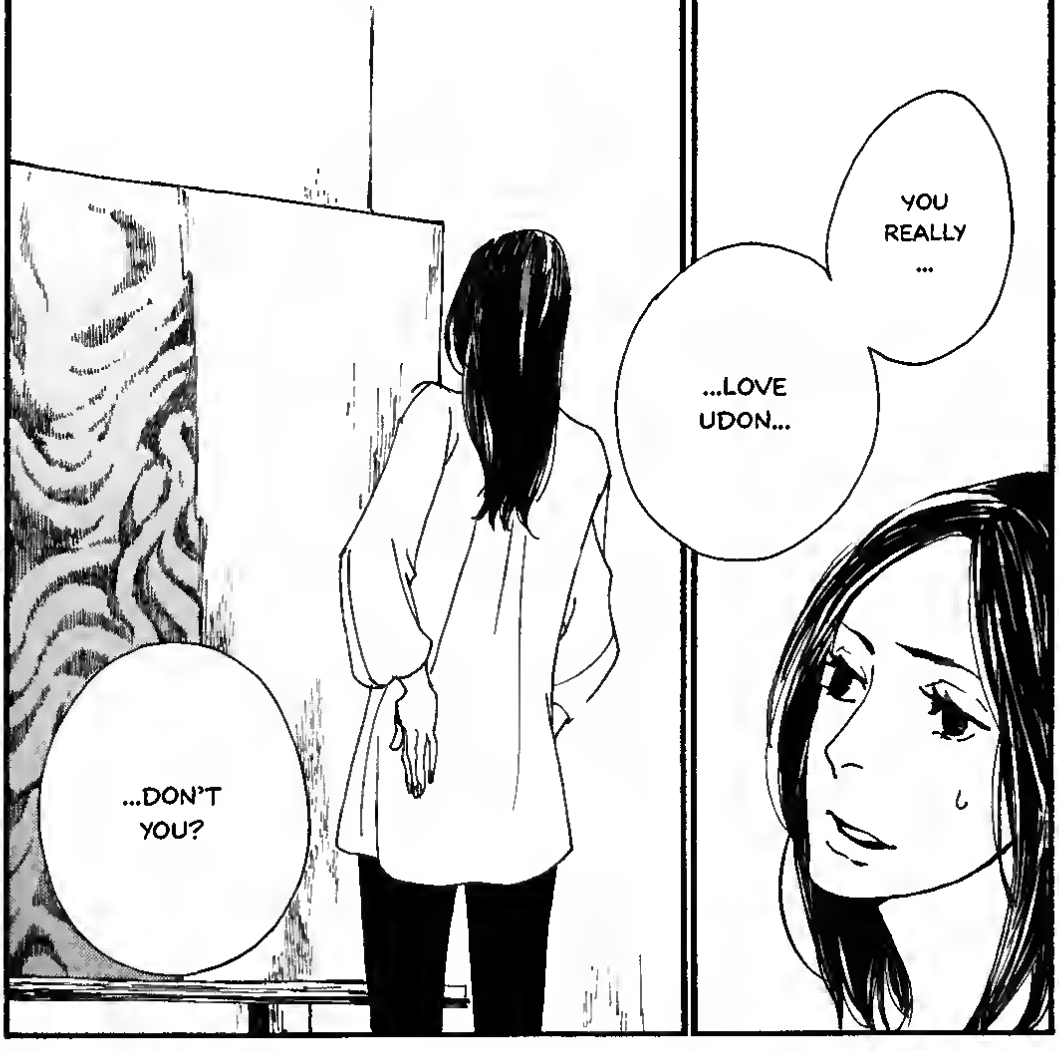
WELL...YOU'RE TAKING IT THE WRONG WAY.

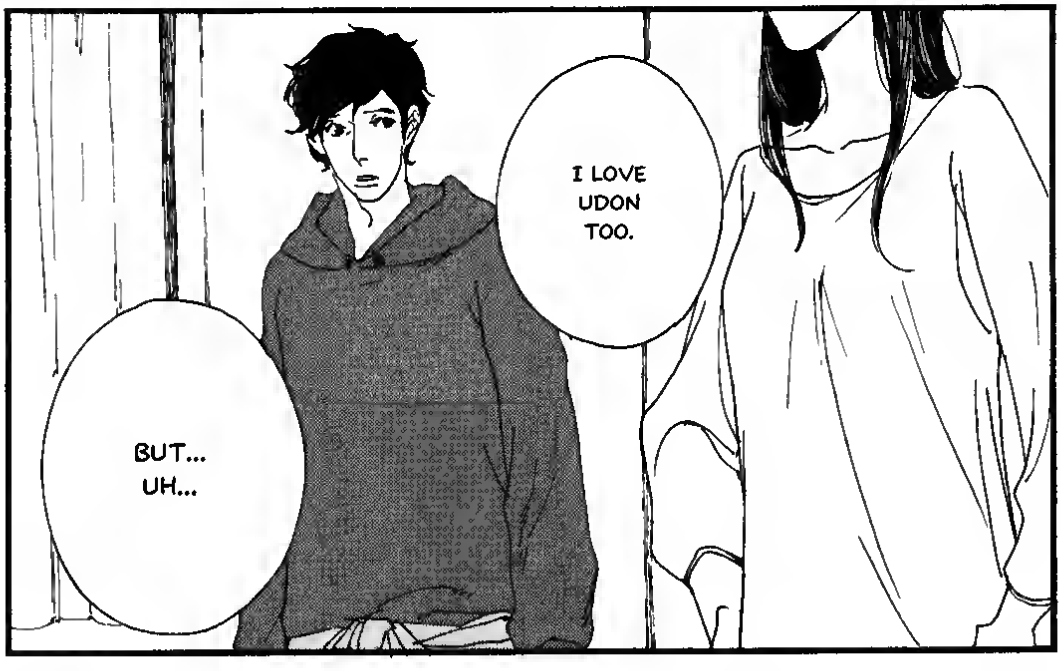
?
HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HUH?
HOLD ON, IS THAT...
OH, KINO!
...FROM THE CAFETERIA?
...THE UDON LADY...

THE ATELIER?
HERE.
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS.

...UDON?
YES,
UDON.
KINO...


YOU REALLY ...
...LOVE UDON...
...DON'T YOU?


I LOVE UDON TOO.
BUT... UH...

THIS...
...IS YOU,
MS. MURATA.

I SEE...
WELL...
IF I LOOK
AT IT LIKE
THAT...
IT SEEMS...
PERVERTED.

BUT...
...IT MAKES ME HAPPY.

KINO...
YOU'RE SWEET.

IS THAT A COMPLIMENT?

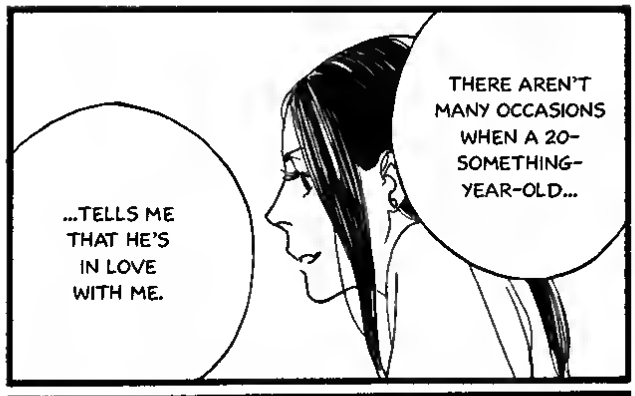
YES.

IT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY.

YOU...
...SUR-
PRISED
ME.
NO...
IT'S
TOTALLY
FINE...
I...
HAHA,
SORRY.
I JUST
FELT
LIKE IT.

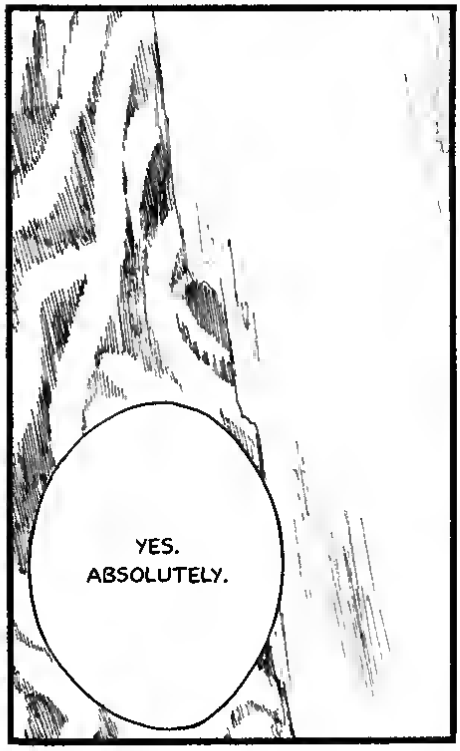
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.

YOU HAVE TO LOOK STRAIGHT UP...
...WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
HUH?!
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.


THERE AREN'T MANY OCCASIONS WHEN A 20-SOMETHING-YEAR-OLD...
...TELLS ME THAT HE'S IN LOVE WITH ME.

...

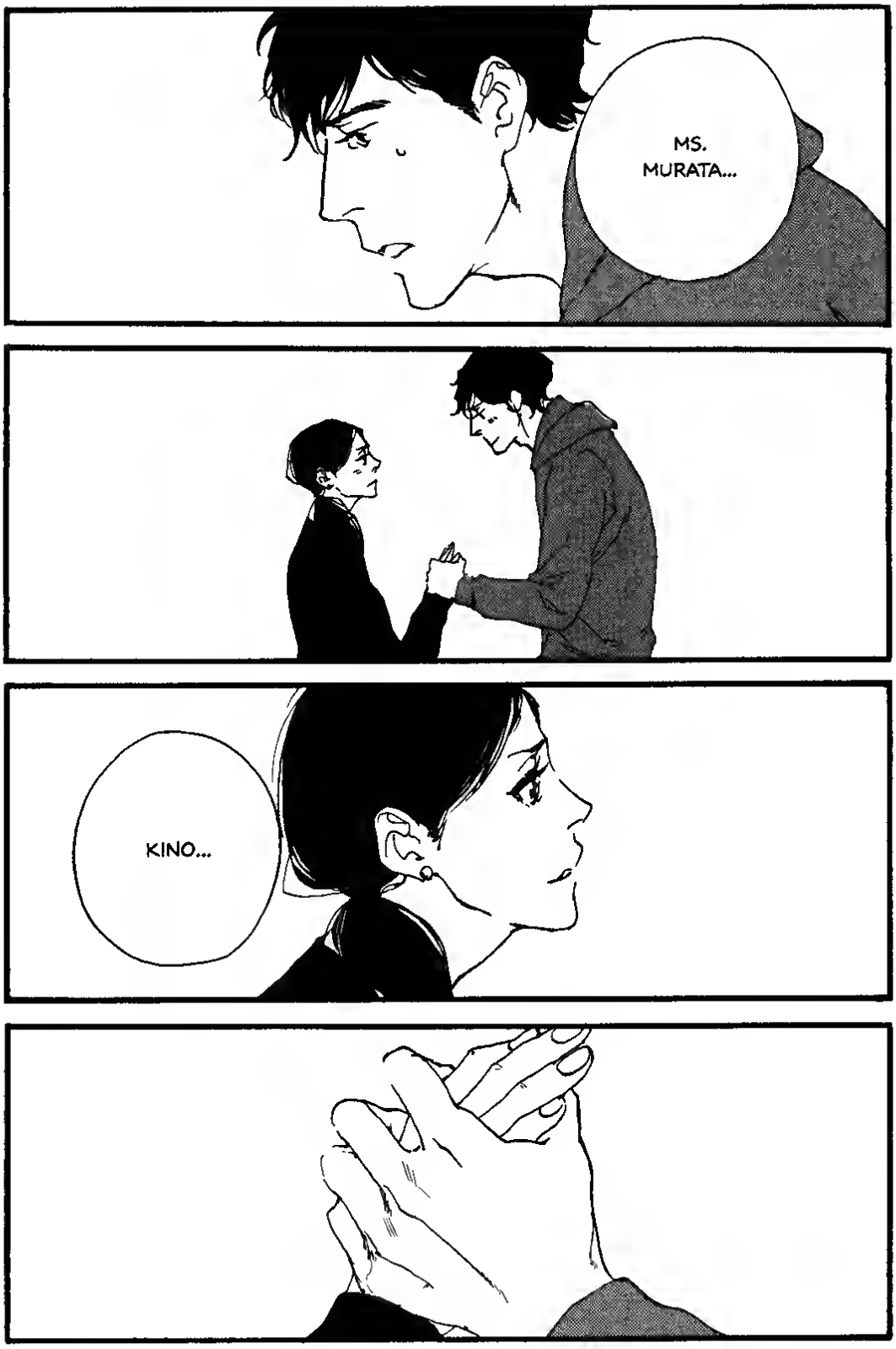
...WHY ARE YOU MAKING ME SAY IT TWICE?

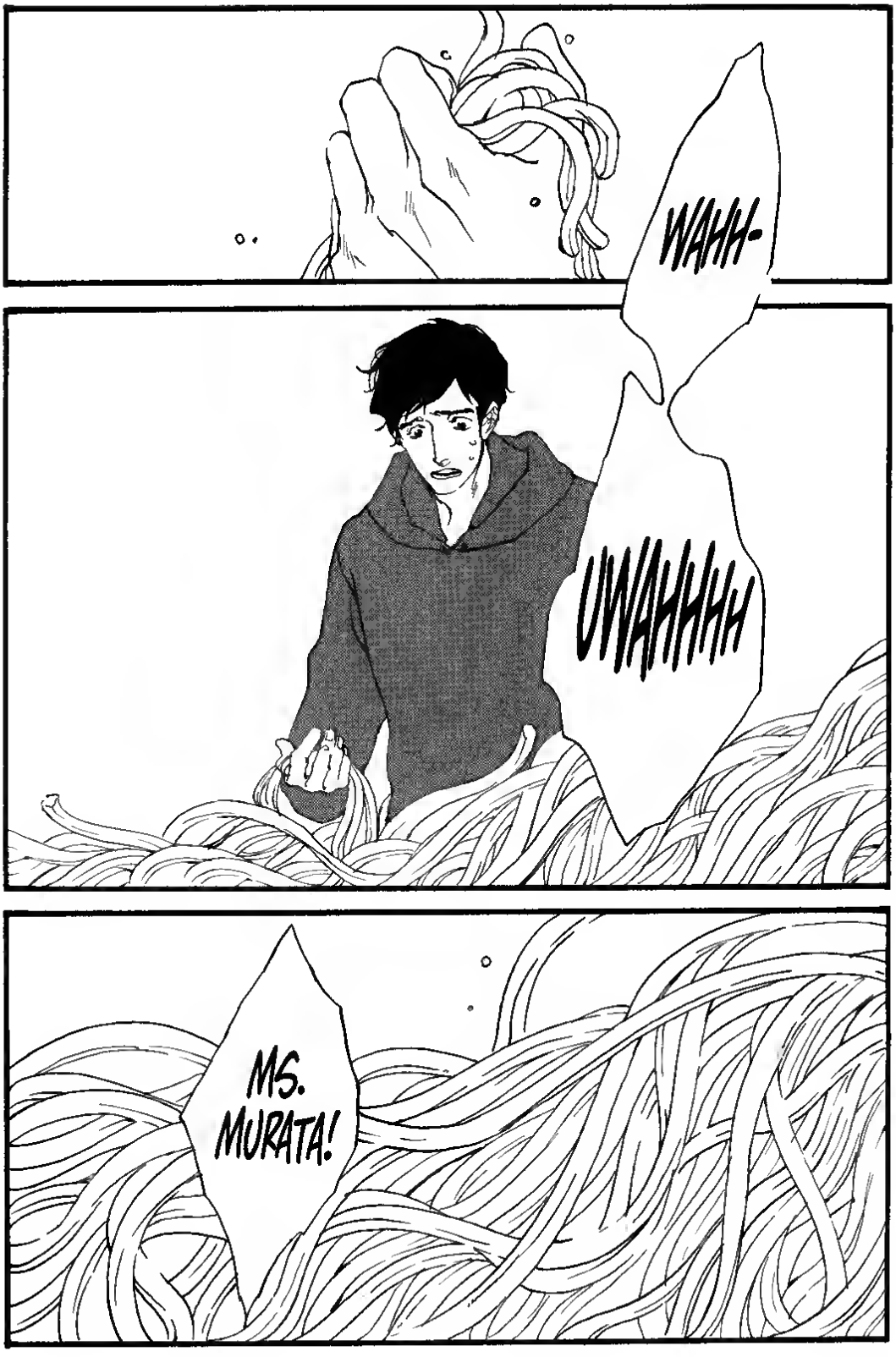

YES. ABSOLUTELY.

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? AFTER ALL, I'M 35.

NO... THAT'S NOT IT...
KINO... DO YOU LIKE OLDER WOMEN?
...MAYBE?
HOW ABOUT 40?
42 IS TOO OLD.
I DON'T GET YOUR REASONING.
DEFINITELY!

# Last Bowl

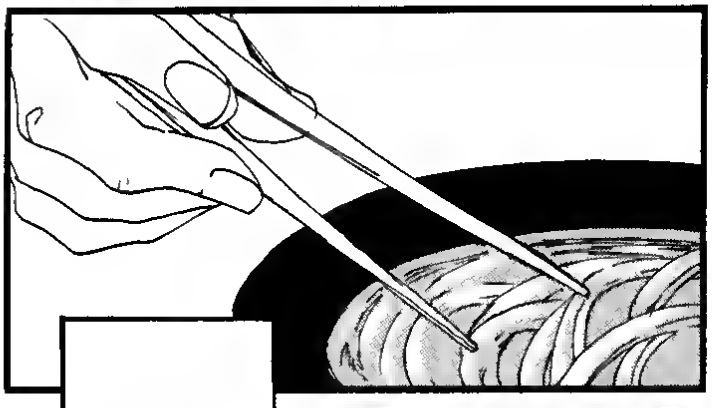

MS. MURATA...
KINO...

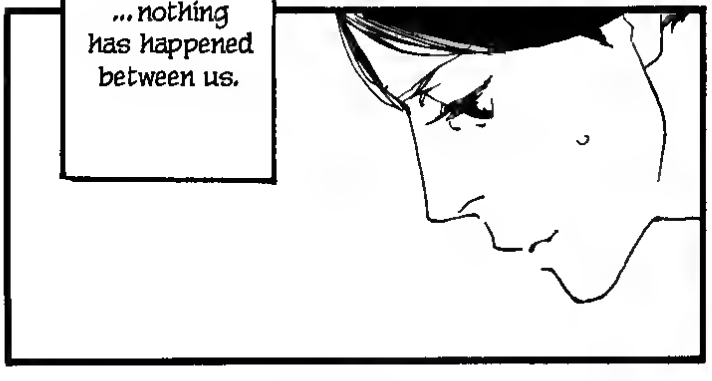

WAHH-
UWAHHHH
MS. MURATA!

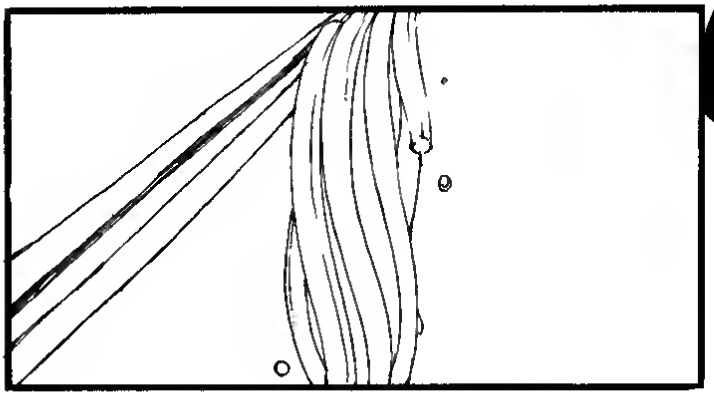
!
...NO WAY.

CAFETERI
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.
After he confessed ...




...nothing has happened between us.



What's wrong?

Yet he always comes during my lunch break to eat udon with me.
What is this?
Are kids these days all like this?

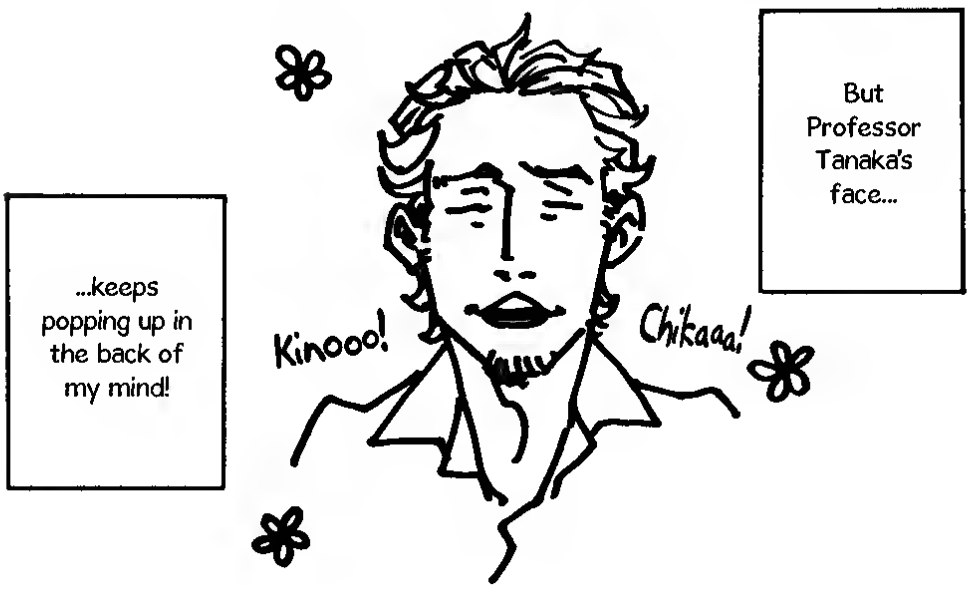
But when will he realize it?!

I'm ready...
...for whatever he brings up!
I can't find the right timing...
My room's a mess, but if you'd like...
Eating hot pot together... No, that's weird.
Doing a paper together... Nah.

MS. MURATA ...
COULD YOU BE...
...MY PERSONAL MODEL?
If he asked, I'd jump on the opportunity.
... Huh?
Hold on...

Maybe he doesn't want to act so casually...?!

It shouldn't be bothering me so much.
This isn't anything new.


But Professor Tanaka's face...
...keeps popping up in the back of my mind!
Kinooo!
Chikaaa!

...KINO.
LOOK DOWN.
WHAT IS IT...?
!!!
!!
GO TO THE BATHROOM.

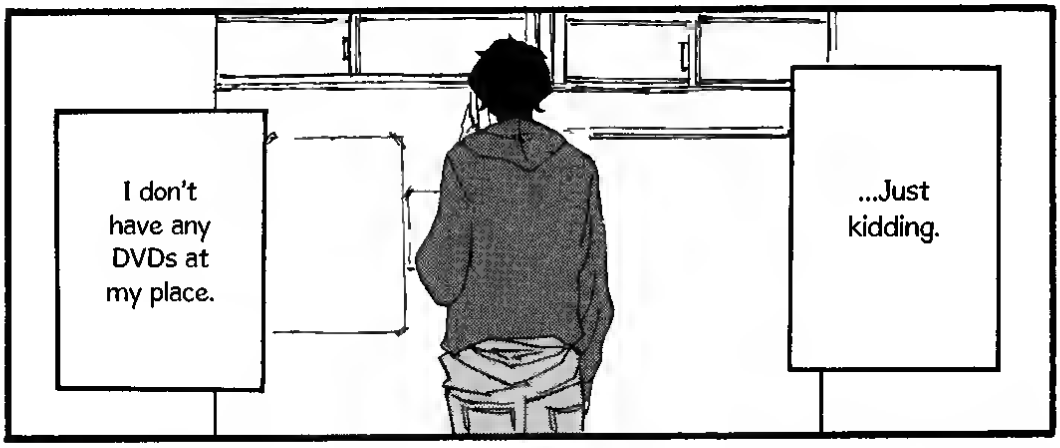
GONK
FLUSHHH
That model's not even my type...
This is wrong... I didn't mean to...

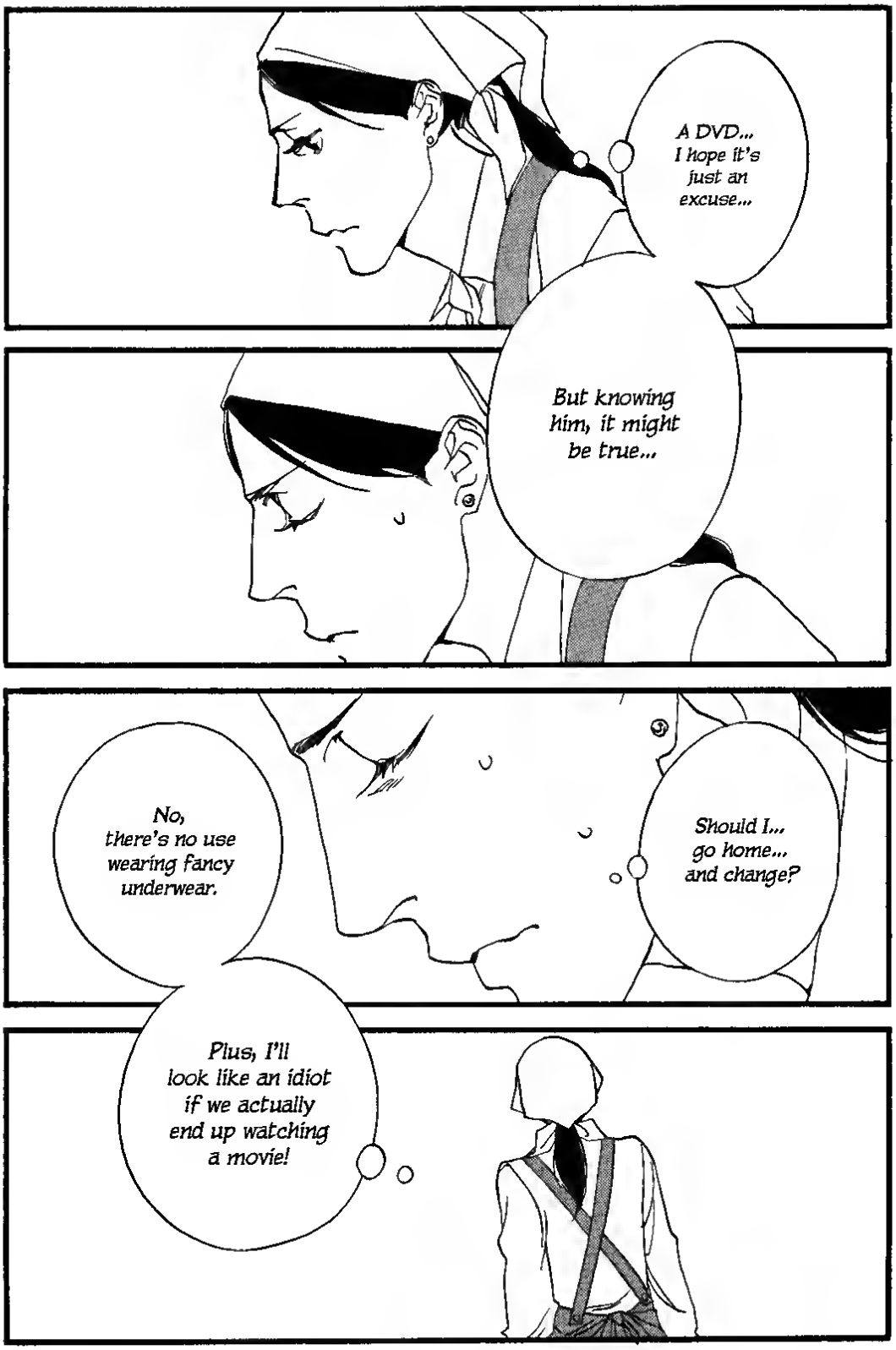
So Ms. Murata... used to pose nude like that.
What a job...
And Professor Tanaka took it further...

...
...Ms. Murata ?
HELLO?
♪
♪
♪
Oh, hold on. I just need to...
SORRY ABOUT THAT. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Um... Today...

Finally!
Would you like to come over to my place?
Uh...
SURE. BUT WHY THE SUDDEN INVITATION?
I should tease him a bit.
An excuse!
I need an excuse...

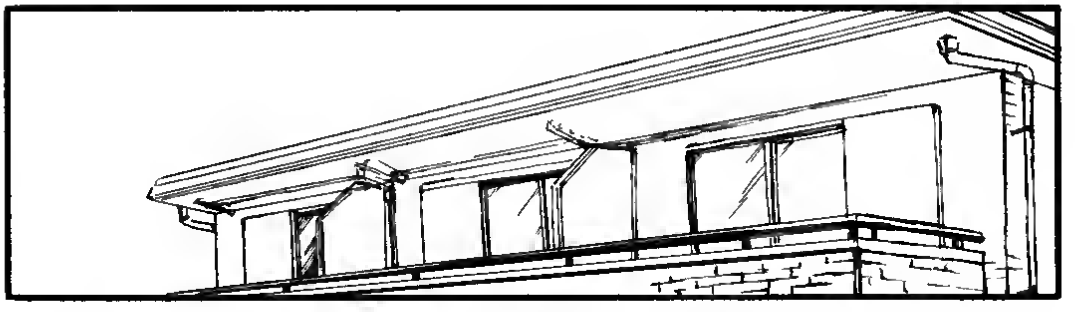
[1] LATE JAPANESE ACTOR AND FILM DIRECTOR BEST KNOWN FOR HIS COMIC SATIRES (*TAMPOPO*, ETC.)

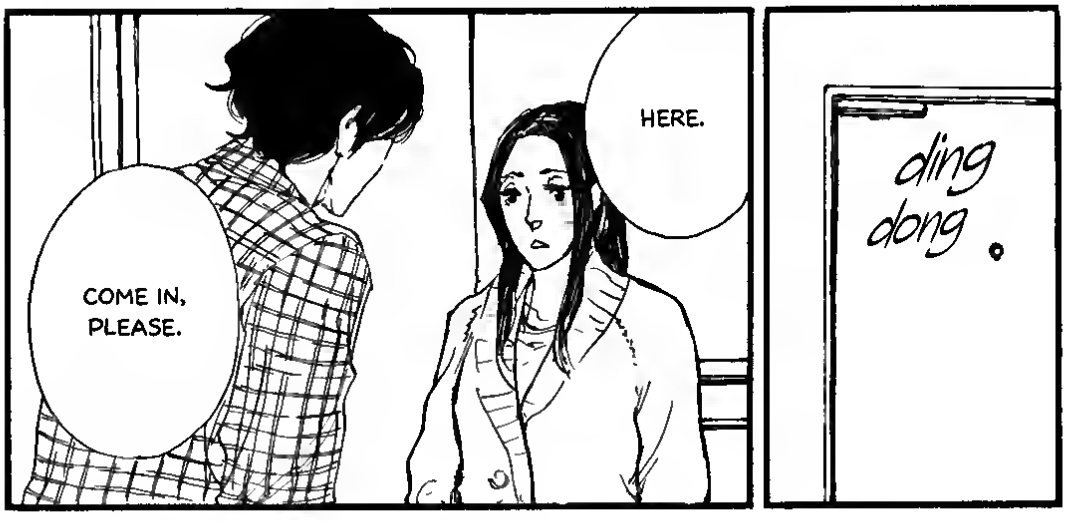



A DVD... I hope it's just an excuse...
But knowing him, it might be true...
No, there's no use wearing fancy underwear.
Should I... go home... and change?
Plus, I'll look like an idiot if we actually end up watching a movie!

SAYAMA.
WHAT?
CAN I BORROW YOUR JUZO ITAMI DVD?
HUH?
AND YOUR DVD PLAYER TOO.
WHAT ?!
WHAT DO YOU NEED THEM FOR?
OH...
WELL...

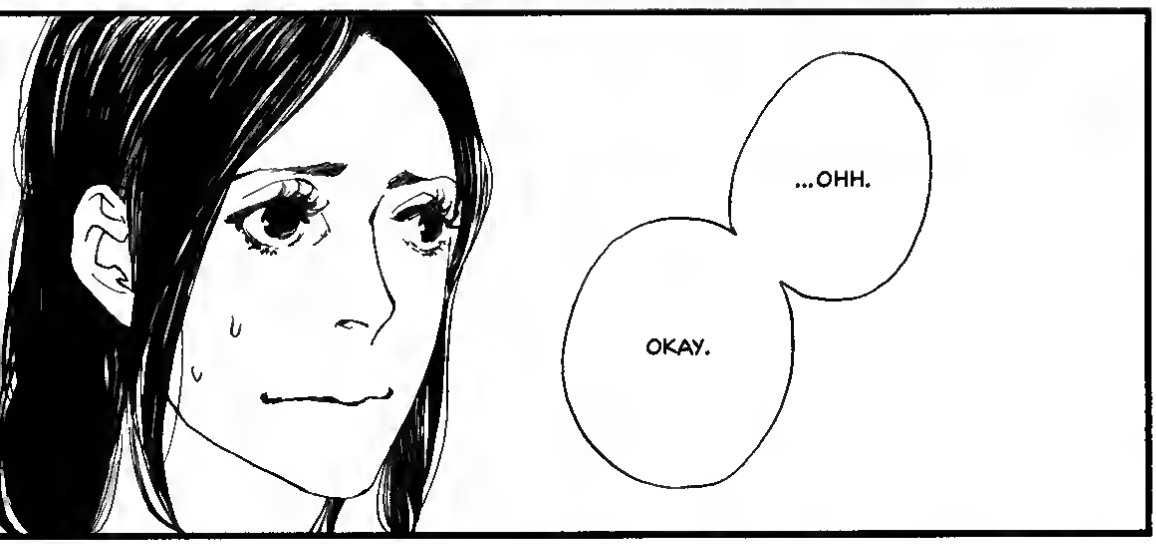
UH...

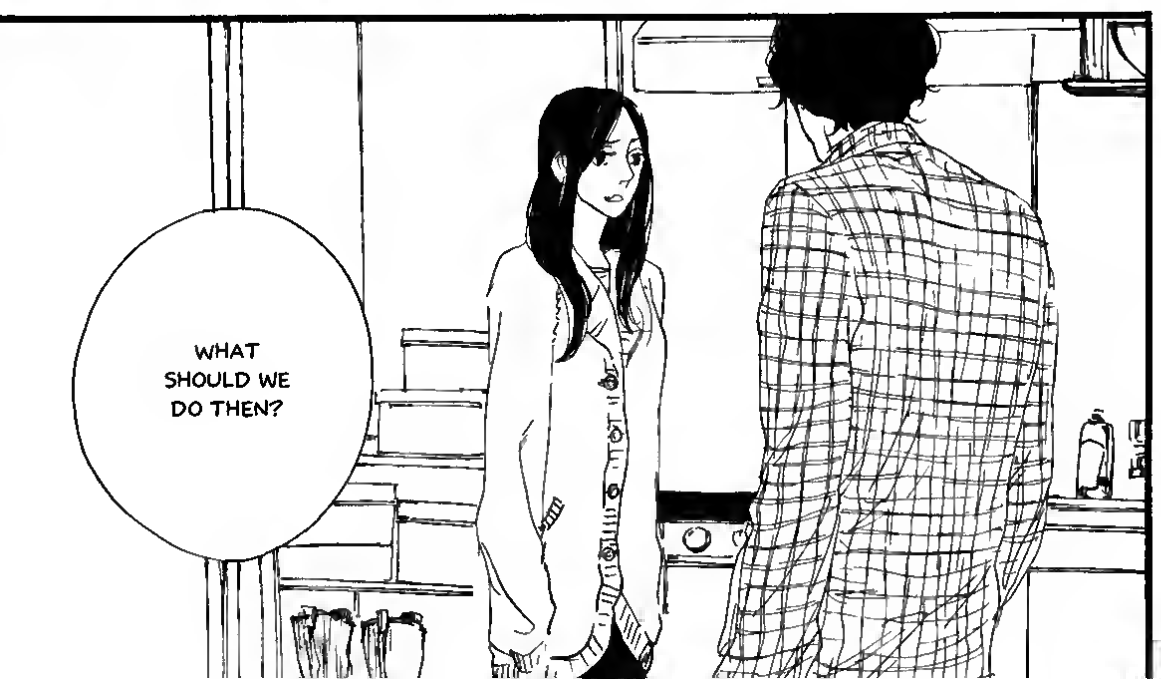



COME IN, PLEASE.
HERE.
ding dong

WOW, DID YOU MAKE IT YOURSELF?
YEAH... SORT OF.
My mom made it, and it was actually meant for Mrs. Ohno...
IT'S POUND CAKE.
YOUR PLACE IS PRETTY CLEAN. I'M IMPRESSED.
WHICH JUZO ITAMI MOVIE DO YOU HAVE?

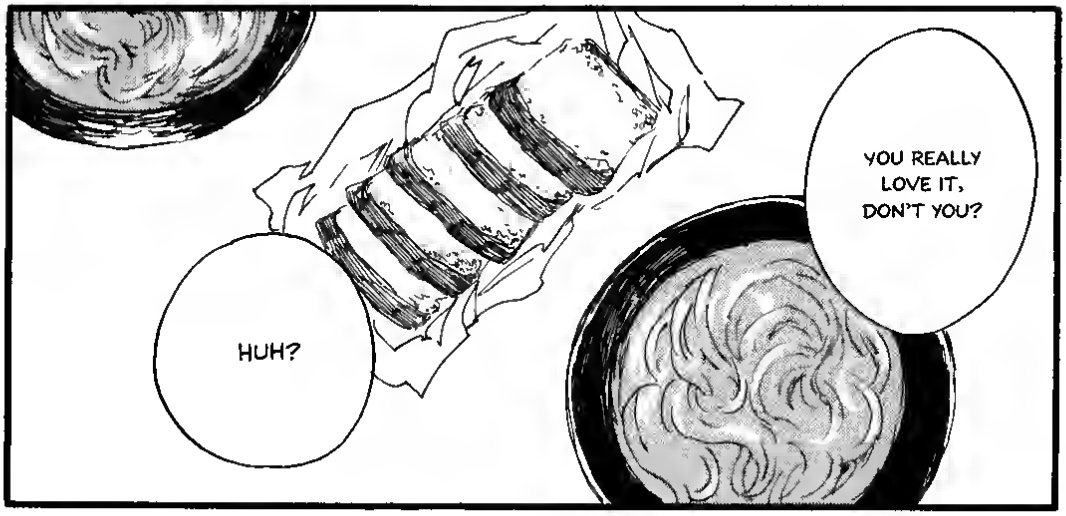
ACTUALLY... I DON'T HAVE THE DVD...
WHAT?!


...OHH.
OKAY.


WHAT SHOULD WE DO THEN?

OH...
IS IT ALL RIGHT?
ARE YOU HUNGRY? WANT ME TO WHIP UP SOMETHING?
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN USE...
OH, SURE.
CAN I LOOK IN YOUR FRIDGE?
WELL, UM...
DEFINITELY A SINGLE GUY'S FRIDGE...

I HAVE UDON IN THE FREEZER.
UDON
BOIL
PFFT


HUH?
YOU REALLY LOVE IT, DON'T YOU?

UDON.
end

SO KINO, THIS MEANS...
YOU LIKE MATURE WOMEN...?
REALLY? THEN, OLD LADIES, I GUESS.
YOU'RE SAYING IT ON PURPOSE, AREN'T YOU?
35 IS HARDLY MATURE...
SOUNDS INTERESTING. MIND IF I JOIN IN?
...SORT OF.
ARE YOU TWO REALLY GOING OUT?

AW, DON'T BE SUCH A MEANIE!
I HAVE NO COMMENT FOR YOU.
...ARE YOU MAD?
THERE'S...

SO WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER?
DON'T BE SO SHY.
...NOTHING TO TELL YOU FOR NOW.
EAT UDON?
AWW, HOW CUTE! I LOVE YOU, KINO.
WHAT?! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
end